FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Battle for Al-Baddawi — Forces Loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat recaptured Al-Baddawi camp early on 18 November but the Syrians subsequently deployed two battalions of special forces in an attempt to retake the camp under cover of "total destructive shelling," according to a loyalist communique reported by KUNA. After seizing part of the camp in a dawn attack, 'Arafat's men killed or wounded over 80 of their opponents, captured 23, including 13 Syrians, and destroyed 11 tanks and armored vehicles, the communique stated. In Damascus Fatah dissident leaders denied that 'Arafat's forces had recaptured the camp, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Mediation Efforts — The renewed fighting in northern Lebanon came in spite of a Damascus radio report that a GCC delegation comprising Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Qatari officials had secured an agreement from Palestinian leaders in Damascus to abide by the cease-fire. Fatah dissident Nimr Salih pledged that his forces would fire only in self-defense, the radio said. Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha stated that the dissidents welcome a dialogue with 'Arafat if he accepts the memorandum on the Fatah dispute issued by the Palestine Central Council's 18-man special committee, according to KUNA. Muragha also denied that the dissidents have set up their own central committee.

KUNA said PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum and several PLO Executive Committee members attended the talks on behalf of the PLO leadership, but neither KUNA nor Damascus radio indicated that any of the participants directly represented 'Arafat.

Lebanon

French Raid — Eighteen French Super Etendard aircraft participated in two raids against Islamic Amal Movement positions in the Al-Biqa' valley on 17 November, killing around 39 people and wounding 150 others, Paris radio reported. French military sources indicated that the attack was both a reprisal and also designed to prevent further planned terrorist acts against the Multinational Force, according to AFP and Paris radio.

Meanwhile, Air France suspended flights to Beirut pending an improvement in security conditions, Beirut radio noted. An anonymous caller claiming to belong to the Islamic Jihad Organization threatened to blow up the American University hospital in Beirut unless the Americans withdraw from Lebanon, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

The deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, condemned the raid and called France's justifications insufficient and unacceptable, Beirut radio said.

Other Military Developments — Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian antiaircraft batteries fired at Israeli reconnaissance planes overflying the Al-Biqa' valley on 17 November, but an IDF spokesman said he had "no information" about such reports, according to Jerusalem radio. In a statement carried by ITIM, an IDF spokesman also announced that one IDF soldier was killed and six others were wounded by a bomb explosion in Sidon.

Relations With Syria — Following Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Beirut, Radio Free Lebanon reported that Syria has agreed to amend the Lebanese-Israeli accord instead of insisting on its abrogation. According to Beirut radio, Khaddam told Lebanese leaders that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will submit new proposals at the forthcoming summit with President Amin al-Jumayyil. Meanwhile, a Lebanese military delegation left for Damascus to discuss ways to consolidate the 25 September cease-fire and the Lebanese Cabinet welcomed the "new page" in relations with Syria, the radio reported. In Damascus, a *TISHRIN* commentary reviewed by Damascus radio claimed that the United States and Israel are trying to undermine the Syrian-Lebanese "rapprochement" with "threats and provocations."

Jordan

The Interior Ministry has stipulated that Jordanians cannot travel to Syria unless they first obtain exit permits, Amman radio announced. The new regulations, which will become effective 19 November, were introduced because of "security considerations."

Sudan

Government forces repulsed a rebel attack in the upper Nile Region on 17 November and also freed two British hostages kidnapped by insurgents in the Southern Region, according to a military communique reported by SUNA. President Ja'far Numayri, who announced the kidnappings earlier at a Paris press conference reported by SUNA, said they were staged by the "Sudanese People's Liberation Army," a group of "saboteurs" trained by Ethiopia and financed by Libya. The rebel demands include the cancellation of Islamic laws and of state control over the church, the president noted.

Meanwhile, an official source in Khartoum cited by SUNA alleged that an Ethiopian MIG bombed a truck inside eastern Sudan on 13 November, killing one person and wounding nine others. Asserting that Ethiopian planes have violated Sudanese airspace several times in recent days, the official that Sudan will respond "in the appropriate way" to preserve its sovereignty.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Reportage, Comment on Al-Baddawi Fighting

Loyalists Recapture Camp

JN181158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA) — Tripoli port and some parts of the city are now exposed to artillery and rocket shelling by the dissident forces. The official Beirut radio reported that a number of pro-'Arafat fighters said today that they have recaptured the Al-Baddawi camp, which fell into dissident hands 2 days ago. They said that the camp was recaptured at 0500 after fierce battles.

Earlier, a Palestinian spokesman told Radio Monte Carlo that the major part of Al-Baddawi camp had been regained, adding that the Fatah leadership will hold a press conference in the camp at noon today in which a number of captured fighters will be shown.

The INA correspondent in Tunis said that PLO Chairman 'Arafat performed his dawn prayers in the Al-Baddawi camp mosque which had been regained by Palestinian revolution forces. An official Palestinian source told the INA correspondent that 'Arafat had spent the night supervising the mopping-up operations in the camp, purging it from the Syrian and Libyan forces and their dissident agents. He described these operations as heroic. They were mainly in the northern and southern parts of the camp — areas which the hostile forces attempted to hold while on their way to capturing the camp.

Palestinian military Communique No 53 was issued in Tunis a short while ago. It said fierce battles are now raging on the Al-Baddawi-refinery axis between the Syrian, Libyan, and agent forces on the one hand and the Palestinian revolution fighters on the other. It added that the Palestinian revolution forces repulsed an aggression launched by the hostile forces near the industrial zone, inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors and forcing them to retreat.

The statement also said that the Palestinian revolution forces recaptured the southern and northern areas of the camp at dawn today after fierce battles. It said that the hostile forces today started heavy artillery and rocket shelling of all Tripoli areas and the Al-Baddawi camp. The communique put known losses among the aggressor forces at 80 casualties. The Palestinian forces captured 22 Syrian soldiers and destroyed 11 tanks and armored cars, 1 rocket launcher, and 4 mounted heavy machineguns.

The communique stated that two Syrian battalions from the special units, backed by tanks and artillery, are now counterattacking on the northern and southern sectors of the Al-Baddawi refugee camp while Syrian and Libyan artillery and reocket launchers are shelling the camp. The communique added that the battles are still raging.

In another development, a responsible Palestinian source announced this morning that the General Command of the Palestinian revolution forces will hold a news conference in the Al-Baddawi refugee camp to acquaint Arab and world public opinion with the details of the conspiracy being perpetrated by the Syrian and Libyan regimes against the Palestinian revolution. The news conference will also discuss the Syrian and Libyan troop concentrations formed during the past 2 weeks in order to kill the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership.

Dissidents Deny Recapture

JN181109 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] The Fatah dissidents in Damascus have issued a statement denying that 'Arafat's supporters have recaptured Al-Baddawi camp.

Syria Launches Counteroffensive

LD181049 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Nov (KUNA) — According to a Palestinian military communique, at noon today Syrian forces deployed two new battalions of special units, supported by tanks and artillery, in a counteroffensive against the northern and southern parts of Al-Baddawi camp north of Tripoli which the pro-'Arafat forces had recaptured early this morning. The communique says that Syrian artillery and rocket launchers, in addition to the artillery and rocket launchers of the dissidents, are shelling Al-Baddawi camp "in a total destructive shelling." It points out that this battle for control of the camp started at 0300 today. It explains that the loyalist forces had earlier repulsed a joint attack from the northern and southern parts of the camp, launched under the cover of extensive heavy rocket and heavy artillery shelling of all parts of Tripoli, Al-Baddawi and the harbor. It says the visible losses of the attackers were more than 80 dead and wounded, 23 captured including 13 Syrians, and the destruction of 11 tanks, armored vehicles, rocket launchers, and 4 mounted heavy machineguns.

Al-'Asifah Issues Statement

JN172206 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA) — The General Command of Al-'Asifah forces has affirmed that it will not again permit the deviationist forces and corrupt cliques to tamper with the Palestinian Arab people's destiny and cause. In a statement released by the Palestinian news agency WAFA today, the General Command said that symbols of deviation have fallen and the Fatah movement has risen anew to regain its bright struggle image and to resume its struggle march with firm and resolute steps.

Addressing the masses of the Palestinian people, the statement said: Since your glorious uprising began, deviationist, opportunist, and agent forces in the Palestinian arena have been distorting the noble objectives of our uprising. These forces have launched mad political, military, and propaganda campaigns to abort our movement in order to maintain the positions and prvileges they had achieved during the years of corruption and deviation.

The statement pointed out that these deviationist and opportunist forces used arms against their comrades instead of responding to the uprising movement's just demands. The statement said that the uprising movement found itself compelled to defend its principles, objectives, and just goals of reform and to defend its common cause, the cause of all free and honest men in this world.

The statement explained that the deviationist clique has launched an arbitrary campaign against Syria and Libya in order to conceal the domestic differences and their causes — corruption and political,financial, organizational, and behavioral deviation. The statement said that this clique has participated in a massacre against the fighters of the Lebanese Communist Party and the National Syrian Social Party in Tripoli, the fighters who participated with the Palestinian Arab people through thick and thin and who fought with them against the Zionist enemy.

The statement added: The 'Arafat leadership's insistence on rejecting the uprising's demands has encouraged them to prepare for great sedition in northern Lebanon. They located their heavy weapons, tanks, and vehicles among the civilians in valiant Tripoli. Thus, the uprising forces had to expell this deviationist clique from the camps in order to save them from destruction.

The statement appealed to the inhabitants of the refugee camps in northern Lebanon to return to their homes and camps now that the elements of sedition are out of the camps and normal life has returned to these camps. The Al-'Asifah General Command also appealed to the sons of Al-'Asifah and the brothers in Fatah to work for the unity of Fatah, to reject the dissension that the deviationist command is seeking to achieve, and to meet their historic responsibility in [words indistinct] the march of their great revolution for which they have made all the sacrifices.

The statement urged the men of Al-'Asifah and the sons of Fatah to adhere to the fighting rifle as a symbol of their legitimate struggle and independent national decisionmaking, so that the corrupt symbols will not detract them from their deep-rooted revolutionary course. The statement also called for rejecting this clique's orders to fire against their brothers, because that would serve the Zionist enemy.

Concluding its statement, the Al-'Asifah General Command affirmed that it will not let the deviationsts escape and that it will try all those who bargained with the cause and conspired against its sons. It also affirmed that it will not allow Fatah to become two movements or the PLO to become two organizations. The command pledged to the Palestinian Arab people to preserve the organziation's unity deep-rooted revolutionary spirit.

Egypt Sends Medical Aid

NC180940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] PNC member Sa'id Kamal has said that an Egyptian medical team and emergency medical supplies were sent to Tripoli in northern Lebanon yesterday to help treat the people injured in the fighting between the Palestinian forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat and the dissident Palestinians backed by Syria and Libya. The Palestinian official said this step is a new, bright landmark to be added to the register of Egypt's people and its leader Husni Mubarak in support of the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership.

Fall of Al-Baddawi Viewed

JN171904 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1638 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Commentary by station political editor]

[Text] A new camp is under occupation; this is what happened in northern Lebanon yesterday. It is a new achievement for our people's enemies, who have many names but the same objective. Our people in Al-Baddawi are being subjected to the same things that happened in the refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. The people are being asked to carry identity cards and to undergo interrogation and searches. The charge will be belonging to the Palestinian revolution. The enemies will necessarily resort to oppression and torture in order to snatch a confession from a solid struggler who refuses to denounce [the revolution] or to reveal the hiding place of a piece of military hardware.

Thus, the Syrian ruler borrowed the methods of the Zionists and fascists to destroy, besiege, and occupy Al-Baddawi. He is now resorting to the methods and expertise of the racist Zionists by imposing security through the force of tanks and bayonets, and the cruelty of mass detention and torture. This is how Al-Baddawi, and Nahr al-Barid before it, declare their affiliation to the militant world of the Palestinian refugee camp. Al-Baddawi was one of Lebanon's refugee camps. Before it, Btay, Tall az-Za'tar, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Sabra, Shatila, Al-Miyah wa Miyah, and the other names that lived through the tragedy, created the revolution, and recorded the Palestinian legend during the siege and anniliation era — recorded a page of Palestinian glory with copious blood, long steadfastness, and stubborness befitting only Palestine, the cause, people, and revolution.

The truth is being completed and is not far away. All the facts of the more difficult stage are now in Lebanon — the U.S. forces are massing in the sea, on land, and in the air and the Zionist enemy forces are completing their preparations for a long stay in southern Lebanon. The Syrian leader, who brought all of his military force to subjugate the last of the Palestinian refugee camps, joins the imperialists and Zionists. This is because the threat against Lebanon's Arabism and Syria's security is not a Zionist or U.S. threat; Al-Baddawi is the only threat. This is what Hafiz al-Asad is saying by committing his new crime, and this is what the agent mercenaries, who are raising the banner of reforms and agreeing to play the most treasonous, dirty, and bloody roles, believe in. Armed with wit and wickedness, the Syrian ruler claims that this is an intra-Palestinian battle, and pretends to forget that his ally, Israel, used similar methods in the occupied land and southern Lebanon when it formed the village leagues and the national guard.

They think that the occupation of a refugee camp means the end of the revolution, even though our people violently and comprehensively exploded their revolution after the Zionists occupied all of Palestine. Our people created the miracle of the revolution,

which chooses the most appropriate circumstances and those that are most harmful to the enemy. The enemy has not once succeeded in destroying the people's revolution, and the Palestinian revolution alone continues to be the master of the Palestinian spirit. The valiant Al-Yarmuk refugee camp is steadfastly and obstinately saying: The Palestinian people, despite all forms and tools of oppression, will not bow. Despite everything, the heroic Al-Yarmuk went out to popularize Palestine with Yasir 'Arafat's pictures and the Palestinian flag, which led the ranks and continues to be hoisted loftily in the world's sky.

QNA: 'Arafat Pledges To Remain in Lebanon

GF180910 Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Nov (QNA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he will remain in northern Lebanon to fight in defense of the independence of the Palestinian revolution. He said that what is happening there at present is not the end of the PLO or the Palestinian revolution. 'Arafat added: Two million Palestinians in the occupied territories and Palestinians throughout the world are the PLO. The PLO is not a base that can be occupied or removed by a military coup. The PLO and the Palestinian revolution will remain.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* published today 'Arafat praised the stand of the GCC countries on the Palestinian question. He declared: We appreciate the fact that the GCC summit once again sent a ministerial delegation to Damascus to seek an end to the fighting in northern Lebanon. He added: Some Arab stands toward current Palestinian developments are excellent. The Arab stand has begun to change in our favor.

AL-QABAS also reported that a delegation of the Egyptian national movement that includes PNUG leader Khalid Muhyi ad-Din is scheduled to visit Tripoli on 21 November and that many European countries have offered to receive the wounded from among Yasir 'Arafat's forces.

Rejects Karami Proposal

NC181220 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, Nov 18 (AFP) — Backers of Palestine [Liberation] Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat today rejected a plan by former Premier Rashid Karami for the withdrawal of all Palestinian fighters from Tripoli in northern Lebanon. Mr. Karami, who is the member of parliament for Tripoli, said dissident leaders Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] and Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] had accepted the plan, but so far it had been rejected by Fatah leader Yasir 'Arafat.

No details of the plan were given.

'Arafat Chairs Palestinian Meeting in Tripoli

JN171626 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has presided over a meeting of the Palestinian command in Tripoli. The meeting was attended by Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. Our sources say that the meeting discussed the latest developments in northern Lebanon.

King Fahd Call Welcomed; Arab Summit Urged

GF180410 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (WAKH) — Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, has welcomed the call made by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to stop the shedding of blood in Lebanon and to move immediately in the direction of ending the tragedy there. WAFA news agency reported that Abu Iyad said: It is not strange that this sincere Arab call comes from His Majesty King Fahd at a time when we — in the Palestinian revolution — respond positively to this call and consider our practical and positive response to be through approving it and holding an Arab meeting at the highest level in order to set things right and to make things clear before this Arab nation, which preserves the Arab blood — which is flowing in an abnormal course — and which is acting toward the disintegration of this nation and the shedding of its blood.

Abu Iyad called on His Majesty King Fahd to call all Arab leaders for an emergency meeting in Saudi Arabia in order to adopt Arab initiatives and measures and, consequently, to end the current disintegration in the Arab ranks and to end the profuse shedding of blood in Lebanon. Anyone who abstains from attending this emergency meeting will have not taken King Fahd's call seriously and will not be in a position to respond to the call addressed to him.

FILILSTIN ATH-THAWRAH on 'Arafat Legitimacy

GF180700 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Under the headline "The Collapse of Logic and Broken Logic," the newspaper *FILISTIN ATH-THAWRAH* writes editorially: What we heard yesterday, what we read and [word indistinct] is strange. Those who currently call for the departure of the leader of the Palestinian people and revolution, Brother Abu 'Ammar from Tripoli are themselves the ones who demanded him — less than 6 months or even less than 2 months ago — to be stationed at the confrontation lines and to abandon the new headquarters imposed by the conditions that prevailed and that imposed his departure from Beirut. In the past they talked — as they still do — about the fact that Abu 'Ammar is not stationed in Tripoli or in the Al-Biqa' valley — where there is confrontation with the enemy and contact with the occupied territories, and where there are Palestinian camps, the basic cornerstone of the revolution — which indicates a certain policy adopted by the leader of the Palestinian revolution and Palestinian people. Those who adopted this demand and these pretexts are the dissidents and the Arab bodies, which unleashed them and which protects them. They even said more than that. They said that Abu 'Ammar wants to withdraw from Al-Biqa', from Tripoli, and from all the Lebanese territories.

The most reasonable sides, who were regarded as the symbols of the Palestinian people, used to say that Palestinian legitimacy is associated with the Palestinian gun, and that this legitimacy can only be tangible where there is the gun and where there are combatants. This can be obstructed by being separated from the kinfolk in the occupied homeland and by being removed from the sounds of machineguns in Al-Biqa' and Tripoli. Even some time ago, before Abu 'Ammar returned to Tripoli, the basic pretext of the dissidents — as well as the mass media that unleashed them and are still protecting them — concentrated on the idea that he abandoned the armed struggle and that he is tied to commitments that preclude his return to the Lebanese arena.

We told them in the past that Abu 'Ammar chose Tunis as his headquarters because this was dictated by the conditions that prevailed after the departure from Beirut and that the effects of the departure of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people — in light of the new political map and in light of the new alliances — entail a thorough review of situations and entail exertion of multiple efforts away from verbal and revolutionary terms in order to rebuild everything. They used to reject the pretexts and claimed that the only place for the fighting should be in Al-Biqa'. They claimed that the alliance should only be with Syria and that the legitimacy is the legitimacy of the Palestinian camps and Palestinian guns. So what happened? What changed? Why did they change their views? Why did they call for the eviction of Abu 'Ammar from Tripoli at a time when they regarded his absence from this city an unpardonable sin, a crime, a plot?

Was not Abu 'Ammar earlier in Beirut and the Palestinian legitmacy not malfunctioning? Was not he besieged in 1976 — and no one said anything about Palestinian legitimacy malfunctioning because of the siege? Then, was not Abu 'Ammar besieged in Beirut at a time when the Palestinian legitimacy and Palestinian action continued to function — and no one said anything about Palestinian legitimacy? Those who call for the eviction of Abu 'Ammar from Tripoli had better frankly and openly say that his return to Tripoli obstructed a plan designed to fragment the Fatah movement like a piece of cheese, and that his stay in Tripoli embarrasses some of the Arab capitals because he will be the witness of what is taking place and what took place in Lebanon.

Moreover, those who have good offices had better demand the socialist allies to open their capital for 'Arafat so that he can link the legitimacy of the gun with the legitimacy of institutions. So let this capital be the bridge between the trenches of the scattered Palestinian people in the world. The fact is, however, that some fear the facts, which prevents some from expressing themselves at a time others are moved by the (?harm) and orders to distort facts and concepts. This is itself the collapse of the logic and broken logic.

Turbul Radio Links 'Arafat to Israeli Sorties

NC181109 Turbul Lebanon Voice of Palestinian Revolution in Arabic 0640 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Brothers: The new impasse facing Reagan's plan is driving the counterforces, primarily the parties to the Camp David agreement, to escalate their aggressive methods to impose this plan by force, particularly since their efforts have completely failed in the face of Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian determination and resolve.

The imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance attaches great importance to undermining the Lebanese-Palestinian cause by preserving 'Arafat's leadership. This is why they are so concerned about its survival and are attempting to stave off its collapse as a symbol and course of action. This is why the Zionist enemy aircraft launched air raids on the Lebanese national forces' positions in the Ba'labakk area. In addition, U.S. aircraft have begun to overfly the Tripoli area. And Washington, through its Lebanese stooges, has begun to escalate the shelling of the national Lebanese and Palestinian positions in the mountain. Within this framework, the continual shelling by 'Arafat's forces against the positions of the uprising and of the revolution forces affirms that 'Arafat is involved in the U.S. scheme. This is also shown by the continual shelling by the U.S. forces and their Lebanese allies of the positions of the Lebanese national forces and of the National Salvation Front in the mountain.

We in the Palestinian revolution forces — specifically, As-Sa'iqah, the Fatah uprising, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the General Command, and the Popular Struggle Front — are determined to continue to confront the Camp David forces and their liquidationist plans. We are also determined to put an end to the danger threatening the Lebanese national presence in the north and Al-Biqa' by cementing the alliance and cohesion among the Palestinian revolution, the National Salvation Front, and Arab Syria, the vanguard of the forces of national steadfastness and confrontation.

NAN Reports on OPEC Strategy Meeting in London

AB171400 Lagos NAN in English 1340 GMT 17 Nov 83

[By Wada Maida]

[Text] London, Nov 17 (NAN) — Six OPEC oil ministers yesterday in London adopted a proposal aimed at devising a long-term strategy on oil prices and production.

The ministers, members of the OPEC long-term oil strategy committee, agreed at the end of a two-day meeting to present their recommendations to the organizations ministerial meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, next month.

Although details of the proposals were not made public, a source close to the meeting told a London correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the committee had recommended regular consultations between OPEC and major oil consuming countries.

It did not, however, discuss the issue of the present production quota allocation to members of the organization as speculated, the source said.

The Saudi Arabian oil minister, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, chaired the meeting attended by the oil ministers of Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Venezuela.

No official statement was issued after the meeting and when questioned by newsmen the ministers said that the meeting was an international issue of OPEC.

KUWAIT

Defense Minister On GCC Military Affairs

PM171449 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Nov 83 p 8

[Interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah by Ayman Habib — date, place not given]

[Excerpts]Question: To what extent have the Al-Jazirah Shield exercises in the Gulf been successful in eliminating the dangers threatening the region? What are the results of these exercises?

Answer: Kuwait has always worked for stability in two main ways. Politically it has followed a line of wisdom and balanced understanding. On the other hand it prepares itself in every possible way to ensure strength and impregnability. The recent exercises have achieved their main objective, which is unity of Gulf military action, as demonstrated by the Gulf forces which participated in the exercises. This is the first positive and tangible sign in the efforts to defend this region and ward off any possible threat to it.

Question: There are those who question the military efficacy and combat standard of the Gulf forces. They believe that the Gulf must rely on foreign forces for the protection of the region. How can this claim be disproved? Were the exercises the answer?

Answer: Our major responsibility in the Gulf is to continue with our preparations. This will undoubtedly automatically improve the standard of military performance in the Gulf. We pay no attention to those why try to cast doubt on the Gulf's military standards so long as we have our own policy and faith in the military capabilities of our men, clearly demonstrated throughout all stages of the exercises.

Question: Development of the Gulf forces requires highly advanced weapons. It is sometimes difficult to obtain the required military hardware. How, in your opinion, should this situation be tackled? Do you support approaching and having military dealings with the other superpowers, considering the risks of such a move?

Answer: We fully believe that we must develop and modernize our Armed Forces and supply them with the most up-to-date equipment. We do not rely on one source because we do not want any constraints of any kind. The make of a weapon does not matter at all to us as long as we are convinced of its effectiveness. Our clear aim is to raise our defensive military capabilities.

Question: Is Gulf military cooperation likely to lead to the formation of a military industrialization body to meet some of the region's military needs?

Answer: The creation of a joint GCC authority for military industries is still under consideration. It is therefore premature to talk about it now.

Question: What about development of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces? How much progress has been made there?

Answer: Thank God. I am proud of what has been achieved so far in the development of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. It is imperative that the development process continue, just as life itself continuously develops in all respects. Our Army's history is honorable, and, thank God, our forces are absorbing everything new.

Question: From a military standpoint, what are the effects of the Iraqi-Iranian war on the Gulf's security and stability, bearing in mind the threats to block the Hormuz Strait? Are the states of the region prepared for a possible expansion of the Gulf war?

Answer: The Gulf's security is linked to the general security of the area as a whole. The Hormuz Strait is an international waterway used by oil tankers delivering oil to all world markets. It is therefore of paramount international importance, and any threat to it is a threat to the interests of the entire world, which means possible international intervention to protect these interests. Nobody can accept the repercussions and consequences of such an intervention. It is not in the region's interest for such a thing to happen for any reason.

Question: The attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor confirmed the danger posed by advanced weapons to the region's security and stability. What military steps can be taken to protect the area's resources, especially the oilfields?

Answer: The first requirement for the protection of the Gulf's strategic targets is effective and quick early warning systems. Luckily, all the GCC states have shown an interest in this matter. One prominent example is the fact that Saudi Arabia has acquired the AWACS planes, which can perform major tasks related to security, such as reconnaissance and early warning, aided by ground satellite stations. As for other military measures, these are naturally shrouded in complete secrecy. I just want to reassure you. Have complete confidence in the capabilities of the Gulf's forces, which constitute the backbone of security in the region.

Interior Minister Returns; Makes Statement

LD171242 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 17 (KUNA) — Kuwait Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said his visits to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain achieved their pre-determined objective because the countries along with Kuwait are concerned with maintaining security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region. In an arrival statement Wednesday night, the interior minister outlined the objectives as "consultation and coordination among brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council." He pointed out that he exchanged views with Saudi and Bahraini officials on security issues and ways of enhancing security cooperation. Shaykh Nawwaf voiced pleasure with the modern security equipment he saw in the two sisterly countries, as well as advanced training methods. He expressed appreciation to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, its Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad ibn Salman Al Khalifah, its Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the interior ministers in the two coun-

tries for the hospitality extended to the Kuwaiti delegation. Shaykh Nawwaf is to resume his Gulf tour next Sunday when he will visit the United Arab Emirates, and afterwards proceed to the Sultanate of Oman as part of a plan for security coordination between the GCC states. Shaykh Nawwaf was met on arrival last night by senior ministry officials headed by Under Secretary Major General Yusuf Badr al Kharafih.

Issuance of Work Permits Temporarily Stopped
GF171603 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Nov 83 p 2

[Excerpts] 'Isa Yasin, under secretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, said that as of yesterday, his ministry has temporarily stopped issuing new work permits and cancellation and transfer procedures, — excluding permits related to the companies and establishments that are in charge of implementing government projects — so that it can totally re-evaluate the situation after the scandal in the ministry. Under Secretary Yasin told *AL-ANBA'* that the amount of the forgery is not known yet, but that there is total cooperation and coordination between the ministry and the attorney general to complete the investigation procedures, which are still in progress. Yasin described the rumors circulating on the issue as exaggerated, and said: I am the only one being blamed among the employees who work at the ministry, but the experience should not pass without being studied and clarified from all sides.

OMAN

13th Anniversary of National Day Celebrated
GF180820 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Sultanate is marking the 13th anniversary of the glorious National Day today when the will of our giving people converges with the heroism of our talented leader, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, may God save him. Our celebrations of National Day this year come as a culmination of major developments in all stages and an end to the serious action which has lasted for 13 years and which was a turning point and a starting point in Oman's history. Our faithful people, led by the leader of the blessed uprising, the loyal son of Oman, Sultan Qabus, have been able to achieve major accomplishments on all levels whose good fruits have benefitted all the homeland's sons. Our celebrations of this dear memory for this year also come under the sublime donation by the leader of the march of progress and construction to his sons, the young people, to make the year 1983 year for Omani youth and allocate the celebrations of this dear occasion to be celebrations for the youth.

Sultan Qabus Orders Release of 55 Prisoners
GF171425 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] On the occasion of the glorious 13th National Day, Sultan Qabus issued orders for the release of 55 prisoners. They will be released on Friday, 18 November 1983.

QATAR

Iranian Official Conveys Khamene'i Message
GF171107 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir, has received a verbal message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the situation in the area in particular, and the Middle East situation in general. The message was conveyed by Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, when his highness the amir received him at his office in the Ad-Dawhah Palace at 0930 today. Hoseyn Shekyh ol-Eslam was accompanied by Mohammad Taqi (Mashayekh), Iranian charge d'affaires in Qatar.

Leaves for UAE
GF171228 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1157 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Doha, 17 Nov (WAKH) — Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian Foreign Ministry assistant under secretary for political affairs, left Doha for Ash-Shariqah today following a short visit to Qatar. The Iranian official conveyed a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to Shaykh Khalifah ibn Muhammad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, on the situation in the region. He was seen off at Doha International Airport by Ahmad 'Ali Ma'rifiyah, under secretary at the Qatari Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh on Palestinian Interfactional Fighting
LD171037 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Nov 83

[News and comment by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] Fighting has flared up again between the warring Palestinian factions in Tripoli, Lebanon, which has caused deep sorrow over the development of the situation between brothers in blood and destiny.

The current picture of events on the Arab scene can be no cause for optimism. This is a fact that should not be disregarded otherwise future consequences will be still more serious. Fighting between brothers in blood and arms from among the Palestinian brothers in Tripoli is a matter that calls for regret and deep sorrow, because Arab weaponry is being aimed at Arab chests while the real enemy stands by, the Arab occupied land with its population moans beneath it, and the cries of the innocent under the yoke of occupation resound because enemy bullets are cutting down those defenders who face the enemy's sophisticated war machine. What a picture for the Arab, who sees brothers confronting each other, not for something substantial but so that one Arab may deplete the power of his Arab brother, as if the destiny of the Arab nation is to remain in confrontation with itself, thus losing its prestige and strength!

What is now taking place in Tripoli is not only a threat to the legitimate presence of the Palestinian people but also a blow to the Arab nation in general, because the common enemy does not diffentiate between Arab forces fighting one another and other Arab forces. They are all the target of their common enemy. What is now taking place is not in the interest of the Palestinians themselves, nor is it for the good of Arabs at large. The phenomenon of Arab forces exhausting themselves on the soil of Tripoli, Lebanon, is the wish of the common enemy, whose officials say to themselves: The Arabs have begun to liquidate themselves without any cost to others who benefit from this. This is the bitter truth of the nature of events now taking place on the Arab scene. May God help us!

UAE

U.S. Secretary of Energy Continues Visit

Gives Zayid Reagan's Message

GF171108 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on bilateral relations, joint cooperation, and issues of mutual interest. The message was delivered by Mr Donald Hodel, U.S. energy secretary, during his meeting with the president at Al-Khaznah rest house this morning. The international energy situation and the developments of the world's oil market were reviewed during the meeting.

Sees Petroleum Minister

GF171110 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, petroleum and natural resources minister, met this morning with U.S. Energy Secretary Donald Hodel, who is currently visiting the country. The international energy situation and cooperation in the field of energy were discussed during the meeting.

Al-'Utaybah on Meeting

GF171910 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1734 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Nov (WAKH) — UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah has said that he and U.S. Energy Secretary Donald Hodel, who is on a current visit to the UAE, discussed the situation in the world oil market and cooperation in various fields of energy.

Speaking after the second session of closed talks which the two ministers held in Abu Dhabi today, Al-'Utaybah said that he explained to Hodel the policy of OPEC — whose current chairman is Al-'Utaybah — on oil prices and rates of production. The UAE minister said that the two sides agreed on the need to support the stability of the oil market as this serves the interests of both oil exporting and consuming countries.

Talks were also held between officials of the UAE Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, led by the ministry's under secretary, Ash-Shibah al-Hamili, and the members of the U.S. delegation accompanying Donald Hodel. Salih 'Ukashah, director general of the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Department, attended.

In a statement to journalists Al-Hamili said that the UAE emphasized the importance of coordination among oil producing and consuming countries so as to avert any problems over prices or an imbalance in the supply and demand in the world oil market. He said the world economy benefits from having stability in the oil market and avoiding any return to the fluctuations in oil prices and production rates which compelled OPEC to reduce its prices in March 1983 by 15 percent — that is, from $34 to $29 per barrel.

Al-Hamili emphasized that it is important for the industrial countries to understand the market situation and OPEC's efforts to maintain market stability. He said that there has been no real increase in demand for oil in 1983.

Al-Hamili said that the oil market is passing through a very difficult period, a period that is becoming daily more and more difficult. He said that the efforts that are being exerted by the UAE and other OPEC member countries will yield results in the near future.

Al-Hamili said that the U.S. side has told UAE officials that there has been a relative increase in the local consumption of energy in the United States and that this increase may have reached about 3 percent. This is a clear reference to some optimistic reports of signs of a relative boom in the economies of some industrial countries.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Meets Official, Departs for Home

GF171533 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 17 Nov (WAKH) — Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ash-Shariqah today received Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry assistant under secretary for political affairs. The meeting was attended by Mahmud Sadat Madar-Shahi, Iranian ambassador to the UAE. The Iranian official arrived in Ash-Shariqah earlier today. He departed for home after the conclusion of the meeting.

Mubarak Calls 'Arafat 'Moderate', Symbol of PLO

NC171629 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said today that the issue of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committe, has not ended yet. He said we had hoped that the situation would not reach this point as this would seriously harm the Palestinian cause and the entire peace process in the Middle East.

In answer to a question, President Mubarak said: I have previously called on the Arabs to discard their differences and told them, "Let us sit and discuss the problems before it is too late," but it seems they are not willing to hear.

In answer to another question, President Mubarak affirm ed: There are constant contacts with Yasir 'Arafat; we receive messages constantly; we received a message yesterday. President Mubarak noted the Egyptian stand has not been exhausted, 'Arafat is the symbol of the PLO and is very moderate, and all parties may disagree on anything except on the fact that 'Arafat is the leader of the PLO because he has become well known internationally. Answering a question on whether Egypt is eager to protect 'Arafat, President Mubarak said that, of course, Egypt is very eager to protect 'Arafat.

Support for Palestinians Reaffirmed

NC171540 Cairo Domestic service in Arabic 1506 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] An official source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Egypt is following with extreme concern and sadness the news of the inter-fighting in northern Lebanon where Palestinian blood is being shed in fighting between brothers and Palestinian efforts are being dissipated instead of directed towards attainment of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. Egypt believes that in these delicate circumstances through which the Palestinian people and their long bitter struggle are passing, dissension and resorting to weapons for resolving disputes is the most dangerous thing that could afflict this just struggle.

The official source added that Egypt, which has always felt that the Palestinian people's cause is its own cause and that their struggle is part of its people's struggle, wishes to reaffirm that its support for the Palestinian people is a principled and unshakable stand and that Egypt will always continue its efforts to achieve a comprehensive, lasting and just settlement based on their inalienable right to determine their fate on their own national soil. Egypt calls on its Palestinian brothers to abandon resolving their disputes through armed confrontation and to initiate a dialogue for the resolution of these disputes in order to preserve the unity of the Palestinian revolution in all its factions. Egypt also calls all the parties concerned to resort to wisdom and farsightedness. It also appeals to the entire international community to work for the attainment of a quick and just solution to the Palestinian people's issue and to put an end to the acts of violence in the area.

Medical Aid to Tripoli

NC180940 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] PNC member Sa'id Kamal has said that an Egyptian medical team and emergency medical supplies were sent to Tripoli in northern Lebanon yesterday to help treat the people injured in the fighting between the Palestinian forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat and the dissident Palestinians backed by Syria and Libya. The Palestinian official said this step is a new, bright, landmark to be added to the register of Egypt's people and its leader Husni Mubarak in support of the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership.

Commentary on Palestinian Fighting

NC171740 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "After the PLO Will Come the Turn of Those Who Dealt It a Blow To Be Crushed"]

[Text] What has happened and is happening in Tripoli in northern Lebanon is the same as what happened, has been happening, and continues to happen in Beirut during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, in south Lebanon, in the West Bank of Jordan, in the Gaza sector, in Arab Jerusalem, in the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran, and even in Cyprus, the Horn of Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The events are intertwined in such a manner that causes surprise. The contest and spying between the two superpowers and between the states that are loyal to either of these two superpowers have reached their climax. What also causes surprise is that the two superpowers and the states aligned to them are concerned only about their narrow and selfish interests. Those who are paying a high price in blood through polarization and suppression are the peoples of the nonaligned states as well as the small and needy states, which are struggling and will continue to struggle for right, justice, and peace.

We say this while we have before us a clear and actual example of yet another tragedy to which the Palestinian revolution is being subjected — the Palestinian revolution which expresses the just cause of the Palestinian people everywhere in the world. Since its inception in 1965 the Palestinian revolution has done no more than attempt to defend the displaced Palestinian people in the camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza. However, this legitimate self-defense that is guaranteed in the UN Charter, international law, and all international resolutions and agreements, has been dubbed terrorism by the aggressors.

What hurts and horrifies the heart is that the attempt to crush the Palestinian Arab revolution is carried out every time by Arab hands. It has been reported that the Al-Baddawi camp, the last armed Palestinian bastion for self-defense, has fallen to the dissidents. Before it, the Nahr al-Barid camp fell and, earlier still, the Palestinian fighters left their camps in Jordan. Everywhere in the Arab homeland, the Arabs hunted down the Palestinian Arabs. What astonishes us is that those who committed the Sabra and Shatila massacres are Arabs who were the bullet,

the gun, and the knife in the hands of the real terrorists. They did not take pity on the children who were taking a poor supper. They killed them even before the morsel of dry bread reached their mouths. They also did not take pity on the mothers, women, and the aged. A crime committed by Arabs against Arabs is an unpardonable crime. The question is not one of Arabs or non-Arabs. The crux of the whole matter is the need for mankind to coexist together.

If the racists in South Africa, for example, have achieved a temporary success in their treatment of the African people there in a manner that does not befit mankind, this does not mean that such behavior can continue or be a pattern to be followed. Some human beings might overpower and defeat other human beings but eventually the basis of the equation is that there will be neither victor nor vanquished.

After it appeared to him that the Palestinian revolution has been crushed, the Israeli prime minister hastened to call for negotiations with Jordan. The question is not all that simple. If there are any negotiations, they must be with the Palestinians. As for those dissenters and supporters of the Palestinian revolution, their turn to be dealt a blow and be crushed will come next if things proceed in this erroneous direction. In the final analysis, the blow that the dissidents and their supporters have dealt to the PLO is a blow that has been dealt to themselves before anybody else. According to historical logic throughout all ages, a just cause such as the Palestinian people's cause, cannot be crushed by subjugation, aggression, and treason.

'Ali on PLO Developments

NC172110 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has made a statement to our radio correspondent in Rome, in which he commented on the developments within the PLO. He said that Egypt has always been opposed to imposing any trusteeship on the PLO and that Egypt reaffirms that it is opposed to any interference in the affairs of the Palestinians. He said that what is now happening to the PLO could obstruct the peace process.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that the purpose of his tour of Morocco, France, and Italy has been to discuss the situation in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, and the PLO crisis. He said that during his talks in the three states he found great appreciation for Egypt's policy, the impetus it has given to the peace process, and its efforts to pacify the situation in the Middle East. He said he also found that the three states appreciate President Husni Mubarak's policy on both the foreign and domestic levels.

'Ali Returns Home

LD172323 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, returned this evening to Cairo from Rome after a tour which lasted 6 days and took him to Morocco, France, and Italy. He was welcomed at the airport by the French and Italian ambassadors in Cairo [names indistinct] and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. It is expected that Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali will submit a detailed report about his tour to President Husni Mubarak. He is also carrying a verbal message from King Hassan II of Morocco to President Mubarak.

Mubarak Addresses Message to Local Councils

NC171413 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak addressed a message to the local people's councils in the republic's governorates on the occasion of the start of these councils' ordinary session. In his message, the president said that the local government system, in both its popular and executive elements, is tantamount to the basic pillar on which the state relies for implementing its plans to guarantee proper utilization of the available resources, and to seek to achieve the highest possible level of industrial development as well as improve performance of services.

In his message, the president pointed out that the role of the local people's councils is primarily one of providing food, achieving development by horizontal and vertical expansion in agriculture, achieving industrial renaissance, implementing the economic and social development plan, rationalizing expenditure, developing the local resources, and enriching integrated development by popular participation and intrinsic efforts.

The president called for combating illiteracy, for regarding public hygiene as a matter of human interest, for coordinating efforts between the local and popular bodies, for developing the villages so they can again be productive, and for promoting the feeling of responsibility in the local society.

The new session of the local people's councils in the republic's governorates began today. The governorates' decisions with regard to announcing the results of the people's councils elections were read. This was followed by a reading of the governors' decisions calling the local people's councils to convene. After the councils' members had taken the legal oath, the election of chairmen of the councils and two deputies for each took place. Council committees were also formed.

Mubarak Visits Projects in Governorates

NC171534 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today continued his visits to work and production sites in the various Egyptian governorates. This morning, the president visited several food projects in the governorates of Ash-Sharqiyah, Ismailia, and Port Said. The president began his tour by visiting the Ash-Sharqiyah Governorate, where he visited the Al-'Abbasah fish farms and was briefed by the officials there on fish breeding and propagation by artificial means. President Mubarak told the officials that such farms should be set up on uncultivatable land. The president praised these projects, describing them as splendid national achievements that deserve every encouragement.

His excellency then proceeded to the Ismailia Governorate, where he inspected the Ismailia fish and duck farms company. These projects, which have been carried out by Egyptians themselves, occupy an area of 1,200 feddans. The president was briefed by the officials there on fish and duck production in these projects. He then went to Port Said Governorate where he inspected the fish farms in Ar-Rathwah area. The president issued directives on increasing the selling facilities so as to serve the citizens.

The president then proceeded to the Port Said poultry and egg production company, the production of which will increase to 1 million chickens and 43 million eggs a year. In Port Said, the president called for a concerted effort to increase production by establishing new facatories in all sectors to meet the needs of the local markets. His excellency also recommended that interest be given to exports.

Mubarak Cables Hassan II on Independence Fete
NC171631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of congratulations to King Hassan II, the monarch of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the occasion of the independence anniversary. The cable reads:

It gives me pleasure to send to Your Majesty sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your independence anniversary. On this happy occasion, it pleases me to commend your sincere efforts to develop your country and to attain your people's hopes for progress. Moreover, I implore God Almighty to give success to our efforts to promote our Arab nation's wlfare. I send sincerest greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to your Majesty and wish the fraternal Moroccan people progress and prosperity under your wise leadership. Please accept my highest regards and sincere best wishes.

Ghali Confers With Greek, Turkish Envoys
NC171720 Cairo MENA in English 1402 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali conferred here today with Greek Ambassador here Andonios Nokimos, and Genduk Olgacay, ambassador of Turkey here. The two ambassadors who met separately with Dr Ghali expounded their countries' viewpoints as regards the current events in Cyprus particularly after the Turkish community, north of Cyprus, has announced their independance.

Dr Ghali has affirmed that Egypt's stance, as regards the current events, is based on the resolutions of the United Nations in this regard, which is based as well on the resolutions of the Non-aligned Movement and the principle of respecting the territorial integrity of the member states of the United Nations. [sentence as received]

Ghali, Ethiopian Envoy Discuss Border Situation
NC172116 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, the minister of state for foreign affairs, today summoned the Ethiopian ambassador in Cairo for an urgent meeting during which they discussed the tense situation in the border areas between Ethiopia and Sudan.

Ghali Confers With FRG Parliamentarians
NC171614 Cairo MENA in English 1320 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali conferred here today with members of the parliamentary delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) on Egypt's policy which aims at achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East and efforts which condemn reasons of tension in the area. The two sides also reviewed bilateral cooperation in political, economic and cultural fields.

AL-AKHBAR: Israel 'Blackmailing' FRG
PM171211 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Nov 83 p 1

[Muhammad Fahmi report: "Shamir Warns West Germany Against Military Cooperation With Egypt"; followed by editorial comment]

[Text] Bonn — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has warned the German Government against military cooperation with Egypt. In a statement to *DIE WELT* Shamir said that his government will oppose any military cooperation between Cairo and Bonn. He said that he not only opposes the sale of the German Leopard I tank to Saudi Arabia but also does not approve of any military cooperation between Germany and any Arab country, including Egypt.

Political sources in Bonn said that Shamir's interview with *DIE WELT* editor Juergen Liminski indicates that Israel has begun increasing its pressure on Germany. The Israeli "veto" is no longer applied solely against cooperation with Saudi Arabia, which Tel Aviv sees as being in a holy war against it, but also against cooperation with Egypt, with which Israel has a peace treaty. This means that Israel is determined to use the guilt complex against the Germans and to restrict their freedom on the international scene.

It is obvious from Shamir's statement that it is in reply to [Egyptian Defense Minister and Minister of War Production] Marshal Abu Ghazalah's statement to the same editor during his recent visit to Germany, in which he underlined the importance of military cooperation between Egypt and Germany in defending Western interests in the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR comment:

This attitude on the part of Shamir is astonishing. We wonder how the Israeli prime minister can make such strange statements,

so incompatible with the letter and spirt of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. The only explanation for this attitude is that Israel is still pursuing the policy of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and has no scruples about resorting to blackmail in order to implement this policy, which is totally rejected.

Salvadoran Vice President Arrives From Amman
NC171610 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (MENA) — The vice president of the Republic of El Salvador arrived here today from Amman on a private two-day visit to Egypt.

Hilmi Leaves for Muscat Anniversary Celebrations
NC171746 Cairo MENA in English 0835 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (MENA) — Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Education and Scientific Research Dr Mustafa Hilmi left here today for Muscat to attend celebrations marking the 13th anniversary of Oman's national day.

During the five-day visit Dr Hilmi will hold talks with Omani officials on means of consolidating bilateral relations.

Communique No 1,282 on 16-17 Nov Operations

JN171713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — Iraq has stated that its fighter aircraft formations this afternoon carried out fierce raids on Iranian enemy troop concentrations, units, and other enemy military targets in the Maysan area in the southern sector, scoring accurate and very effective hits.

Communique No 1,282 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command here this evening stated that Iraqi units shelled enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector of the battlefield, inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy. The communique added that 11 Iranians were killed and 2 others were wounded in other areas in the northern sector and east of Basra. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,282 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While continuing to defend Iraq's land and lofty mountains, our valiant Armed Forces will remain strong and intrepid and will inflict on the oppressive enemy and its aggressor forces the heaviest losses in life and equipment. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our daring fighter aircraft formations this afternoon carried out fierce raids on enemy troop concentrations and units and other military targets in the areas opposite our forward units' positions in the Maysan operational theater in the southern sector of the battlefield, scoring accurate and very effective hits. Flames were seen spiraling from enemy positions and areas deep within enemy territory in this sector. All our fighter aircraft formations returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our forward units shelled enemy positions, troop concentrations, and assembly points in the northern sector of the battlefield, dealing fierce and effective blows and inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy. Six enemy elements were killed and two others were wounded in other areas of the same sector.

3. Our forward units shelled enemy positions and weapons emplacements opposite their positions east of Basra, scoring direct hits. Many were killed or wounded in other areas of the same sector. Our units killed five enemy elements, wounded others, and destroyed six weapons emplacements and personnel positions. They also confiscated some weapons and various types of military hardware, some of which is serviceable while others are destroyed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 November 1983

President Meets War Donors, Speaks on War

JN171618 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has stated that Iran exposed itself when one of its political leaders admitted that Iran had seized part of Iraqi territory because it is rich in minerals.

This was stated by President Saddam Husayn today when he received a group of donors from Dahuk in the autonomous region. The president added that Iran also admitted that it had damaged some of the Iraqi villages, while it has been incessantly stating that it is not shelling Iraqi cities.

President Saddam Husayn said: They are seeking to expand at Iraq's expense. However, God has exposed them and is exposing them to their people because we do not believe as they do that the Iranian people are so ignorant that they are incapable of differentiating between black and white and between the truth and lies.

President Saddam Husayn said: We believe that the aggressor pig will face its inevitable fate on the soil of the Kurdistan mountains and will be buried in their valleys. We are fully confident that the tyrants and aggressors will fail to obscure the sun which has risen over Iraq.

Haddad Calls for APU Meeting To Discuss PLO

JN171825 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — Na'im Haddad, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has called for an emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] Council to discuss the critical situation through which the Palestinian revolution is passing.

In a letter to APU Secretary General 'Abd ar-Rahman Burawi, Na'im Haddad stressed that what the Syrian and Libyan regimes are perpetrating against the Palestinian revolution is the vilest conspiracy against the cause of the Palestinian Arab people in the history of their struggle.

Na'im Haddad added that the inhabitants of the Nahr al-Barid and Al-Baddawi refugee camps are being subjected daily to artillery shelling by the Syrian regime, which is pouring fire on Palestinian children, women, and old people instead of confronting the Zionist enemy which is occupying the Golan, southern Lebanon, and Palestine.

Na'im Haddad said: We are feeling the burden of the historical responsibility dictated by the bonds of Arabism on the Arab parliamentarians, who represent their nation and who have been the loyal defenders of the Arabs' central cause of Palestine. He explained that the perpetrators are carrying out their vile crime and one cannot remain silent about the massacre of Palestine's revolutionaries, the liquidation of their cause, and the confiscation of their national and independent decisionmaking.

Na'im Haddad said that the Iraqi parliamentary branch is ready to host the council's emergency meeting or to convene it in any other Arab capital.

Industry Minister Receives Soviet Official

JN171818 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — Subhi Yasin, Iraqi minister of industry and minerals and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings

of the joint Iraqi-USSR committee for economic and technical cooperation, met today with Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the scope of cooperation between the two countries, the ways of promoting it, and the two countries' preparations for convening the 14th session of the joint committee in the first quarter of next year.

Friendship Societies Head Meets USSR Official

JN172050 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, president of the Iraqi Federation of Friendship Societies With the Peoples, today received Gatibkov, deputy chairman of the KaSSR Council of Ministers, [name and title as received] and the delegation accompanying him.

Amin reviewed the dimensions of the war of aggression to which Iraq is being subjected and the Khomeyniite regime's designs to expand in the Arab Gulf region, stressing Iraq's ability to crush the Iranian regime's attempts to cross Iraq's international borders. He also emphasized Iraq's eagerness to halt the fighting and settle the dispute with Iran through peaceful means on the basis of guaranteeing the two parties' legitimate rights and noninterference in domestic affairs.

'Abd al-Fatah Muhammad Amin noted the coincidence in the timing of the Iranian offensives against Iraq and the attempts to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and its legitimate leadership, the PLO. He highly valued the USSR's stands on the Palestinian cause and its support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights. He also praised the advanced relations of friendship between Iraq and the USSR based on mutual respect and joint interests.

Gatibkov reiterated the USSR's firm policy in support of the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and their liberation movement. He expressed hope that relations between the USSR and Iraq will be strengthened and praised the treaty of friendship that was signed between them in 1972. He expressed admiration for the great development process that is underway in Iraq.

Ramadan Receives Soviet Official

JN172114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Gatibkov, deputy chairman of the KaSSR Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him.

The first deputy prime minister expressed Iraq's satisfaction with its good relations with the USSR and Iraq's eagerness to promote them in the service of the two countries' joint interests.

Taha Yasin Ramadan spoke about the Iraqi-Iranian war and Iraq's desire to end it and establish peace in the region.

The deputy chairman of the KaSSR Council of Ministers praised Iraq's sincere endeavors to achieve peace and end the war and added that his country hopes that this war will end so that peace can be established.

The meeting was attended by Najih Muhammad Khalil, president of the Iraqi-USSR Friendship Society, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the two sides also reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and minister of trade, also received Gatibkov and the delegation accompanying him today. Hasan 'Ali praised the relations of cooperation and friendship between Iraq and the USSR. Gatibkov stressed his country's desire to promote relations with Iraq in order to serve the interests of the two peoples.

Peace Council Official Meets Hungarian Group

JN171921 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — Dr 'Isam 'Abd 'Ali, deputy secretary general of the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity, met today with the Hungarian National Peace Council delegation headed by Nandorne Sebestyen, president of the council and vice president of the WPC.

During the meeting, they reviewed the work and activities of the Iraqi and Hungarian councils and exchanged views on current world circumstances, WPC issues, and the means of confronting the savage imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the peoples of the world, their freedom, independence, and sovereignty. The two sides discussed coordination and joint action between the Iraqi and Hungarian councils at WPC meetings and other world meetings.

In a press statement issued at the end of their visit to Iraq, the Hungarian delegation stressed the need to ask national peace movements and the WPC to put pressure on Iran in order to halt its war with Iraq and to negotiate peacefully for an end to the fighting. This is because reaching a peaceful settlement and ending the war as early as possible is for the benefit of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples and would contribute to securing peace and progress in the region.

The Hungarian delegation praised Iraq's civilized progress and said that Iraq's great construction movement affirms its desire to establish a new and progressive model on the political, social, economic, and cultural levels.

Culture Minister Meets Foreign Journalists

JN172111 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1224 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has said that Iraq is confident of Iran's defeat and that it sees this defeat just as surely as the sun rises every morning.

During his meeting with a number of foreign journalists who are currently visiting Iraq, Jasim said that the Iranian regime will accept this reality regardless of the continuation of the war and regardless of Iran's repeated attempts to attack the Iraqi border. He affirmed that Iraq's military capabilities are greater and stronger than they were when the war began. He said that Iraq currently has a stable economy and is proceeding with its plans to implement building and reconstruction projects throughout Iraq.

Jasim spoke in detail about the circumstances at the beginning of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Iranian regime's numerous attempts to cross the international border in several sectors on the front with Iran.

Jasim said that the Iranian regime tried to achieve its aggressive objectives, but it has failed and has suffered huge human and material losses. He pointed out that after more than 3 years of war the world is well aware of Iraq's principled stand on ending the fighting and solving the problems peacefully. It also knows Iran's aggressive objectives to spread chaos in the region.

Trade Minister, Delegation Leave for Tokyo

JN181004 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0802 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA) — Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, left Baghdad at dawn today for Tokyo leading a delegation to the meetings of the fourth session of the joint Iraqi-Japanese committee which will begin in Tokyo next Monday.

The minister told INA that the committee will discuss several economic issues, trade, and an increase in the two countries' economic and technical cooperation. The minister added that the committee will put special emphasis on expanding cooperation in technology transfer and the training of Iraqi cadres.

The delegation includes representatives of the ministries of trade, industry, planning, transportation, communications, and housing, as well as the Foreign Economic Relations Committee.

The joint Iraqi-Japanese Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was formed in accordance with the two countries' cooperation agreement signed in 1974.

U.S. Fact-Finding Congressional Mission Visits

Meets Al-Qasim

JN171612 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received in his office today a U.S. delegation comprised of a number of senators and members of the House of Representatives from the state of Kentucky. They are currently visiting Jordan on a fact-finding mission in a delegation that in'ludes a large number of Kentucky officials.

Al-Qasim explained to them the various aspects of the Middle East problem and its recent developments, including the situation in Lebanon. He noted Jordan's view on the Palestine question, affirming its firm policy that is based on the need to find a just, peaceful, and durable solution — a solution that is based on implementing UN Resolution No 242, guaranteeing the Palestinians' right to self-determination and full Israeli withdrawal from all of the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem. He also affirmed that no successful and durable settlement for a permanent peace in the region can be reached otherwise. Al-Qasim also explained the dangerous Israeli policy that hampers any international effort to solve the crisis — particularly Israel's continued building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, of which there are more than 263 in the West Bank, as well as its expropriation of Arab land, which has reached 50 percent of the total West Bank area.

Ahmad at-Tarawinah, president of the Senate, and a number of senators met today with the U.S. delegation from the states of Kentucky and Maine. At-Tarawinah explained to the delegation all aspects of the Palestine question and the situation in the Middle East in general, with special emphasis on the Israeli aggression in the region and Israel's rejection of all peace initiatives that are based on right and justice, the latest of which was the Fes Arab peace plan. He also explained Israel's continued aggression and occupation of the Arab territories. He pointed out that Jordan, under King Husayn's leadership, is living with all of the dimensions of the cause and that it has always been aware of the fact that the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East is to guarantee the Palestinian people's full legitimate rights; establish their independent state on the soil of their homeland, Palestine; and return Jerusalem.

The head of the U.S. delegation affirmed that the meeting was a unique opportunity for the delegation to become acquainted with the facts in the region, and said that the members of the delegation will convey what they have heard and seen to the American people.

Information Minister Receives Delegation

JN171935 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Amman — Minister of Information 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received at his office this afternoon a U.S. delegation comprised of a number of senators and members of the House of Representatives from the states of Kentucky and Maine.

During the meeting, Abu 'Awdah reviewed the foundations of the Jordanian foreign policy, which is based on Jordan's historical responsibilities and important geographical location. He pointed out the importance of the visits of such delegations, saying that these visits are useful and give the opportunity to become directly acquainted with the situation in the region. Abu 'Awdah stressed that Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn seeks to achieve a lasting peace based on right and justice, a peace that would safeguard the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He pointed out that the region is now facing the failure of the peace efforts because of Israel's intransigence and rejection of all peace initiatives. He said that this intransigence contributes to the creation of many problems in the egion, as is the case now.

Abu 'Awdah also pointed out Israel's continued establishment of settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip despite the fact that these settlements are illegal. He said that Israel seeks to create a new fait accompli in order to achieve its expansionist policy at the expense of the Palestinian policy, ignoring the consequences of its role in the region. He said that this proves that Israel seriously rejects achieving a just peace. Abu 'Awdah criticized the U.S. Administration's recent stand on the settlements issue. He also criticized the U.S. legislative authority's stands on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He described these stands as biased and short-sighted.

Amman Commentary Raps Syria's Role in Lebanon

JN170757 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Nov 83

[Unscheduled station commentary]

[Text] Fierce clashes in the Palestinian camps in northern Lebanon have resumeed after a cease-fire which lasted only a few days. The Syrian offensive has escalated in an attempted to liquidate the PLO and its legitimate authority in the trap of Tripoli, as 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam put it in his speech at the Syrian People's Assembly yesterday. Although some people believe that, through its crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, the Syrian regime is trying to be the regional master in a future Middle East settlement, all the current signs indicate that this will not happen. Syria has never attempted to assume its role in the settlements which have been proposed since 1967. Syria no longer speaks of the occupied Syrian territory. It seems as though it has accepted Israeli law in the occupied Golan Heights.

The side who seeks a regional role to solve the Middle East conflict will not kill the Palestinian partner in full view of the Arabs and the world and with the open blessing of the Zionist enemy. Since the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, the question has been one of a plot to spread confusion and division and to create trouble so as to eliminate those sides which are internationally recognized as parties in solving the region's crisis. Israel carried out its role by occupying southern Lebanon and expelling the PLO bodies and cadres from Beirut. Today, Syria is continuing where Israel left off. It is pursuing the PLO leadership and cadres in northern Lebanon in order to take effective control of this area after having succeeded in controlling eastern Lebanon.

When Syrian control over the northern Lebanese Palestinian camps is completed and the Palestinian card is snatched from the hands of the PLO, the Syrian regime will have realized its aims to obtain both the Lebanese and Palestinian cards.

The big question, which is addressed to the Arab conscience, is: When will the shedding of the Palestinian blood, which is being spilled over the altar of Syria's regional ambitions, stop? When will the Arab chivalry stir from its deep slumber in order to stop the Syrian tampering with the Arab and Palestinian affairs? When will the Arabs move before the elements of this Syrian tampering extend to other parts of the moribund Arab body which is threatened from all sides?

AR-RA'Y Warns Against Creating New PLO Leadership

JN180443 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 18 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "They are Setting the Rabat Umbrella on Fire," *AR-RA'Y* says: The fighting moved to the entrances of Tripoli a few hours after the fall of the Al-Baddawi refugee camp to the hands of the dissidents, who are supported by Syrian and Libyan forces. This means that the scheme aimed at liquidating the PLO, militarily and politically, is being implemented quickly, as if there is a fixed date for completing the liquidation.

Those who believe that they can create a new PLO or a new PLO leaadership by dividing the current leadership, and making a substitute for the legitimate PLO leadership before the coming Arab summit are mistaken. It is obvious that toppling the PLO or its leadership by force will lead to a very dangerous result —the toppling of the Rabat resolution which acknowledged the PLO under its legitimate leadership as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Thus, there will be no room for any artificial leadership in the Arab summit.

AR-RA'Y continues: In light of this clear fact, we can imagine the amount of responsibility held by the Syrian and Libyan regimes, as well as the dissidents, before the Arab nation. These parties cannot wash their hands of the scheme they are implementing if they succeed in liquidating the PLO militarily and politically with the Rabat resolution.

There is no need to recall that Jordan, which estimated the dimensions and consequences of the massacre being perpetrated against the PLO and the Palestinian people, was the first to appeal to the Arab leaders to intervene and put and end to the massacre in order to save the Palestinian legitimacy from its ordeal. Jordan still warns of the scheme being perpetrated by the Syrian and Libyan regimes as well as the dissidents, and of its consequences in the Arab and international arenas.

AR-RA'Y concludes: It would be better for the Arab leaders to explain to the Syrian and Libyan regimes, as well as to the dissidents, in a frank and straight fashion that they cannot exploit the Rabat umbrella to play with the Palestinian card in order to satisfy their own whims. This umbrella is the one which is receiving thousands of shells they are shooting against Tripoli, after it received thousands of shells they directed at the Nahr al-Barid and the Al-Baddawi refugee camps. If they succeed in liquidating the PLO's legitimate leadership, they will not gain anything from the umbrella which they are setting on fire with their own hands.

Syria Agrees To Amendment of Israeli Accord

NC171858 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has agreed with Minister Khaddam to convene two Lebanese-Syrian summit meetings, the first next week, that is before President al-Jumayyil's visit to Washington, and the second after his return and the conclusion of the second phase of the Geneva conference. Syria has agreed to amending the Lebanese-Israeli agreement instead of demanding its abrogation. It has also promised to promote efforts to stabilize the cease-fire. The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY said Khaddam was eager to convey to President al-Jumayyil a handwritten letter from President al-Asad affirming his desire to facilitate Al-Jumayyil's mission, as well as Syria's desire to establish strong relations with Lebanon.

Al-Wazzan Explains Position on 17 May Agreement

NC272126 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] In an interview with the PRESS NEWS AGENCY [Wakalat al-Anba' as-Suhufiyah] today, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said two steps are required in order for the 17 May agreement to become effective. The government will not take them because of the many Israeli actions and measures which have rendered the agreement useless as far as Lebanon is concerned, such as Israel's refusal to coordinate with the Lebanese Government when it withdrew from the mountain. Prime Minister al-Wazzan said that the negotiations with Israel which began in Qiryat Shemona were a continuation of the indirect negotiations conducted by Philip Habib and led to the withdrawal of the Israelis, the Syrians, and the Palestinians from Beirut. The agreement on the withdrawal from Beirut included nine points, eight of which dealt with military issues, while the ninth dealt with the question of the withdrawal of all forces from all the territory of Lebanon.

He said that Lebanon has regarded the 17 May agreement as frozen or cancelled since Israel informed the United States that it will not withdraw from Lebanese territory unless the Syrians and the Palestinians withdraw from Lebanese territory. He said he informed the Arab League secretary general some time ago that Lebanon has frozen the agreement with Israel.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: We all took part in the negotiations to ensure the withdrawal from the capital. Otherwise, how did the Palestinians and the Syrians leave Beirut? How were we able to bring about Israel's withdrawal from it? He said the Syrian Army left the Lebanese capital as a regular army enjoying legitimate authority. Had it been otherwise, the Israelis would not have agreed to its departure with all its weapons. Referring to the fate of the agreement with Israel, the prime minister said: There are two steps in order for this agreement to become effective. These are: Its ratification and the exchange of its ratification instruments. We have not taken the two steps, because we found that Israel's actions and developments rendered the agreement useless to us. Therefore, we froze it.

He said that our basic objective in the agreement is to bring about Israel's withdrawal. If Israel does not withdraw on the pretext that the Syrians or the Palestinians refuse to withdraw, what use is there for us in this agreement?

Elaborating further, Prime Minister al-Wazzan affirmed that Lebanon regarded the agreement as suspended or cancelled some time ago, especially after the Israelis refused to draw up a timetable for their withdrawal and refrained from coordinating with the Lebanese authorities regarding their withdrawal from the mountain.

He said that what was discussed in Geneva concerning the agreement stems from the position that it is frozen, and that what is hoped for is Israel's withdrawal from the territory, preparatory to the other withdrawals. Regarding the position of the Chamber of Deputies speaker toward the 17 May agreement and his insistence on not canceling it, the prime minister said that Speaker al-As'ad will not insist on the agreement if he sees an alternative to it that will ensure the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He said that the Chamber of Deputies has a right to meet and recommend the government cancel the agreement or return to the chamber, and the government has a right to demand that it be amended.

Regarding [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss's proposal to conclude an acceptable agreement with Israel, the prime minister asked: Who said that the Lebanese negotiator wanted the conditions contained in the 17 May agreement? Prime Minister al-Wazzan expressed surprise at the clamor given to the question of Lebanon's identity, because in such basic issues, one should view the state's course and line as representing all and not the factions, parties, and people who may have conflicting ideas.

Asked about his government's readiness to implement the resolutions of the Dialogue Conference in Geneva, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: If we approve them, we shall refer them to the Chamber of Deputies. If we do not approve them, there are two options open to us: Either introduce amendments to them or resign. Since we have resigned, it is preferrable for a new government to be established that will represent the dialogue partners and adopt their resolutions.

Military Mission Returns From Damascus 18 Nov

NC181241 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] The Lebanese military mission returned from Damascus today after having held talks with several Syrian military officials and some Lebanese parties present in Damascus. It was learned that the atmosphere of the talks was positive. The mission includes Army Intelligence Chief Colonel Simon Qassis and Staff Colonel Jean Nasif, who is the Army representative to the Security Arrangements Committee. The Security Arrangements Committee is now in session at its headquarters in the Trad Bank branch between Ash-Shuwayfat and Kafr Shima. Positive decisions are expected to be made at the meeting.

Salim, Multinational Force Envoys Meet 18 Nov
NC180816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] At 0900 today, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim met with the envoys of the four states participating in the Multinational Force in the presence of the papal nuncio in his capacity as dean of the diplomatic corps. They reviewed the situation and developments in Lebanon, foremost of which the Israeli measures in the south.

Karami Meets Arab Envoys; Urges 'Arafat To Leave
JN181256 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus —Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami met with Arab ambassadors accredited to Syria in Damascus today. He made a statement on the situation in Tripoli and north Lebanon. Karami stressed the need for remaining neutral in the Palestinian internecine fighting because this is necessary to reach a just solution and to avoid danger and harm. He said that what is required now is not a cease-fire, because experience has shown that a cease-fire is always violated. What is important, he added, is to present just solutions that will realize solidarity, to direct our guns at our enemy, and face enemy plots and designs.

Karami then spoke about 'Arafat reneging on the promise he made when Karami persuaded him to leave Tripoli in order to spare the lives of the children, old men, and women in Tripoli. 'Arafat, he said, went back on this promise and has concentrated his weapons in the Tripoli streets exploiting the concepts of hospitality and Islamic rules.

The former Lebanese prime minister answered 'Arafat's shaky claims by asking: Does religion call on us to expose old men, women, and children to death in a peaceful city? Does religion demand the expulsion of the Tripoli people from their homes, leaving them to suffer starvation in cold weather?

Karami announced that he supports the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian people, and the struggle against Israel. He said: Our history is our witness. Nobody can outbid us. Karami asked 'Arafat to leave Tripoli as soon as possible to spare the city further destruction and ruin. He called on Arab heads of state to deal with the tragedy and exert their efforts to reach a solution that will restore to Tripoli its national role in Lebanon.

Beirut American Hospital Receives Threat Call
NC171906 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The administration of the American University Hospital in Beirut today received a telephone call from an anonymous person, who said he belongs to the Islamic Jihad Organization. The caller threatened to blow up the hospital if the Americans do not withdraw from Lebanon.

Cabinet Discusses Security Situation 17 Nov
NC171437 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by radio correspondent Joe Sa'adah from the Presidential Palace — recorded]

[Text] Two hours of discussions in the Cabinet, preceded by a meeting between President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister al-Wazzan, ended at about 1400 today. An official statement was issued after the meeting which said: At the beginning of the Cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim reviewed the general political situation and what pertains to his excellency the president's visit to Damascus. He referred to the visit by His Excellency Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Beirut which came as a confirmation for the convening of a Lebanese-Syrian summit. The Cabinet welcomed the new page which has been opened in the Lebanese-Syrian relations and which Lebanon believes must continuously be characterized by fraternity and mutual confidence, especially in view of the fateful circumstances which the two countries and the whole area face. This served as an opportunity to call on the various ministries to take the necessary steps to organizing these Lebanese-Syrian relations in the various spheres in order to be ready for the forthcoming talks.

The Cabinet also took note of the substance of the talks which were held with His Excellency Minister Khaddam, particularly what was raised by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan about Tripoli and the need for cooperation to spare the city further damage and tragedies. During its discussion of the situation in the north and in Tripoli, the Cabinet expressed its regret for and rejection of the fighting which is taking place between the Palestinian parties, which returned to the north after they pledged in the summer of 1982 to leave Lebanon for good. They returned after Lebanon had provided an official farewell for their exit which preserved both interests and honor at the same time. The Cabinet affirmed that it is necessary for the Palestinians to recommit themselves to this pledge.

The Cabinet then discussed the security situation in the various governorates, especially the obstacles which the Israeli side is placing in the south against the citizens and their movement to and from the south. This matter was the subject of discussion with a view to finding solutions that would put an end to the obstacles. It has been decided to urge the Lebanese-Israeli military liaison committee to seek to put an end to such arbitrary measures, which cause the most serious damage to the people of the south and their interests.

The Cabinet also discussed the question of the recent security escalation in Greater Beirut and its suburbs. His excellency the president informed the Cabinet that he and the prime minister held the necessary contacts to alert the officials to the seriousness of this escalation. The prime minister noted the importance of the role of the military committee, which left for Syria today to meet with the Syrian leaders and the Lebanese party leaders present in Damascus. Finally, the Cabinet discussed the subjects on its agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions regarding them.

Beirut Notes Weinberger's Message to Khuri

NC171022 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger yesterday reaffirmed that the Multinational Force's mission in Lebanon is a source of pride and that the grave losses sustained by the Marines will not change U.S. efforts to restore stability in Lebanon. This was stated in a message which Weinberger sent to his Lebanese counterpart, 'Isam Khuri, in reply to a cable of condolences conveyed by the Lebanese minister.

RFL Reports U.S. Amphibious Landing at Khaldah

NC171706 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1655 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] At 1720 today three U.S. warships landed U.S. Marine infantrymen and 20 amphibious armored personnel carriers on the Khaldah shore. The U.S. force then left for the Khaldah road junction. Meanwhile, U.S. military vehicular movements were recorded in the area. It was reported that this operation is part of a rotation of forces.

Amal Statement on Absentees, Airport Operations

NC180724 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] The Amal Movement has warned the authorities against taking any action against any employee who absents himself from his work for security reasons. This was contained in a statement by a responsible source in the movement's Labor Bureau. The statement stressed that Beirut airport is open to all under the protection of the legitimate authority and that the Amal Movement has no reservations against anyone. The movement emphasizes the need for maintaining this vital establishment operative and secure.

SANA Cites PSP Source on Cease-Fire Violations

JN171443 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA) — An official source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has warned against the daily attacks on the villages of 'Alayh and Al-Matn and also the villages near the town of Dayr al-Qamar from the gun positions of the Phalangist army and militias in Dayr al-Qamar. In a statement here today, the source said that the mountain villages have been exposed to continuous, indiscriminate shelling since the cease-fire agreement in order to force the citizens to evacuate, despite the humanitarian aid that the people of Ash-Shuf are giving to the fighters and civilians who are besieged in Dayr al-Qamar. The source said that the biased official media have exploited the present press censorship and have been misleading the public by making them believe that we are responsible for the aggression. In fact, it is being committed by the Army and the militias, the Army that has never been used in a national task since its foundation.

The source affirmed: The PSP will honor all agreements, including the cease-fire agreement, but will absolutely not allow our citizens to become prey to the blind isolationist regime and to the arms brokers among the Army officers, whose sole concern is to purhcase ammunition and make enormous commissions on them.

Gunmen, French Soldiers Exchange Fire 17 Nov

NC172023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2008 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Telephone dispatch by unidentified editorial room reporter — live]

[Text] Further to our report a short while ago about the firing of rocket propelled grenades at a position of the French contingent in Khandaq al-Ghamiq locality, security sources have just informed us that two other rocket propelled grenades fell near the French position in the Khandaq al-Ghamiq locality. A clash took place between members of the French unit in the area and gunmen in which the French used automatic weapons. The clash stopped about 1 or 2 minutes ago, but the sound of gunfire can still be heard in the area in which the rocket propelled grenades fell.

Further Report

NC172034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2016 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Further to the report we broadcast at 2205 today, a security source informed us now that the clashes which took place about 15 minutes ago between gunmen and members of the French contingent stationed on the Fu'ad Shihab bridge road, in the Khandaq al-Ghamiq locality, stopped a short while ago. Three rocket propelled grenades were fired at the French position in the area. The French replied with automatic weapons. The shooting lasted 6 minutes. No casualties have been reported so far. A Lebanese Army force immediately moved to the scene to bring the situation under control and to assist the French.

RFL Reports 2 Israelis Killed in Sidon Explosion

NC172155 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Press reports say that two Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded in an explosion targeted at an Israeli patrol in a suburb of Sidon.

Israelis Seal Off Area

NC180825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] In the south, the Israeli forces are sealing off the industrial site at the southern access to Sidon, and are conducting a large combing operation in search of armed nationalist men who yesterday carried out an operation against an Israeli patrol. According to an Israeli spokesman, one Israeli soldier was killed and six others were wounded in the operation.

Reportage on French Raid on Ba'labakk 17 Nov

Civil Defense Removes Debris

NC171746 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The latest information about the results of the French raid on the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk:

A Civil Defense source reported a short while ago that Civil Defense men are continuing with difficulty to remove the debris of the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks, part of which was destroyed as a result of the French air raid. The source added that it is difficult to determine the number of casualties because of the destruction caused to the barracks building and the difficult conditions which accompany the work of the rescue men.

RFL Cites Casualties

NC171814 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] After the Israelis, the French aircraft today dealt a blow at terrorism in Lebanon. Just before 4:20 pm local time, a squadron of 12 French Super Etendards took off from the carrier *"Clemenceau" and raided military bases under the command of* Husayn Musawi and the Iranian terrorists in the Ba'labakk region. The French planes scored direct hits on their objectives, including the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks and the Khawwam Hotel in Ba'labakk said to be Husayn Musawi's headquarters. According to reports, huge fires broke out in the targets as a result of explosions in the ammunition depots. The reports also indicate at least 35 killed and 150 wounded. Shortly after half past five, there were reports of a second French air raid against Iranian positions near Ba'labakk.

Casualty Toll Rises

NC172114 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The latest information from our correspondent in Al-Biqa' indicates that rescue operations and removal of rubble from the destroyed buildings in the An-Nabi Shit village are continuing and that about 50 dead and 150 wounded have been counted so far as a result of the French raids on the Iranian and Shi'ite gunmen's military positions. Our correspondent reports that the Ba'labakk hospital and the Khomeyni military hospital are crowded with dead and wounded.

French Overflights Reported

NC172132 Paris AFP in English 2121 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov 17 (AFP) — French Navy Super Etendard jets today bombed a barracks in eastern Lebanon occupied by pro-Iranian Lebanese Shi'ite militia, the Lebanese state radio reported.

The Christian Phalangist Voice of Lebanon Radio said French planes had carried out two raids an hour apart in the Ba'labakk region in the Al-Biqa' plain, but this was confirmed neither by Lebanese state radio nor by the French Defense Ministry in Paris.

(Military sources in Paris said there might be some confusion over the raid itself and a later overflight by French jets for reconnaissance purposes.)

According to reports, the French attack today was against the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks and the Ras al-'Ayn neighborhood in Ba'labakk and was carried out by 14 planes, only two of which actually participated in the bombing.

The planes reportedly destroyed the hotel where Mr Husayn Musawi lives.

(In Paris, an official source said French military commanders in Lebanon had reason to think new terrorist acts against French forces were being prepared.

(Today's action was preventive rather than a reprisal, the source said.

(The official Defense Ministry communique spoke of the bombing raid as "a first intervention."

(Observers in Paris said this meant such actions could continue as long as French forces were on alert in Lebanon.)

Sources here said the raid had been set for several days but was postponed due to bad weather.

The crew of the *Clemenceau*, who had been on leave in Larnaca, Cyprus, were suddenly called on board at the end of last week, informed sources said, noting that Air France flights in and out of Beirut were cancelled as of Saturday.

(In Washington, observers said the Israeli and French raids would increase pressure on the United States to undertake similar actions.

(In Jerusalem, Government spokesman Dan Meridor said when asked about the French raid: "All I can tell you is that there is no one here who has not received the news with satisfaction.")

Paris Reports Raid Reaction

LD180837 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Thirty-nine dead and 150 wounded is the toll of the raid carried out yesterday in northeastern Lebanon by the French Air Force against the Islamic Amal Movement. [as heard] The operation was a reprisal for the murder of the 58 Frenchmen of the Multinational Force. Eighteen Super Etendard planes took part in the operation. Two fighters' camps were hit. The Shi'ites' answer came soon after: Three rocket attacks were made against the French positions and a machinegun fire exchange took place after that. Apparently, the situation was calm last night.

Finally, it is worth noting the positive reactions of the Israeli Government and of the White House after the French intervention. Washington had been informed of the French plans.

Religious Leader Denounces Raid

NC172045 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, the deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has denounced the French aircraft attack on Ba'labakk. He called on France to disclose the information which prompted it to carry out such action. In a statement he made this evening, he said: We regard the justifications given by France for this action as insufficient and unacceptable. We consider Israel responsible for all the acts of terrorism. France has been drawn into carrying out a very serious role which is incompatible with its purpose in Lebanon and with the principles of international law.

Press on Ba'labakk Raid

NC180812 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In its editorial *AN-NAHAR* says: France, as President Mitterrand threatened, has carried out a retaliatory operation similar to the Israeli operation which is said to have been in coordination with the United States. Syria once again, and with its well-known skill, did not intervene on the basis that the French attack was against the Iranians just as the Israeli attack was. In any case, the matter will not stop at this point, but reciprocal retaliation will increase so long as the situation in Lebanon remains unchanged and the United States and Russia, as President al-Asad said, do not discuss the whole crisis.

On the French air attack, *AS-SAFIR* says that the attack surprised various circles which were still assessing the number of those killed and wounded during the Israeli strike on 16 November in Ba'labakk area, in which many innocent people became victims. The paper asks where the anticipated strike by the Marines will take place following the U.S. threats made yesterday parallel with the French president's threat. The paper says that senior officials and the country's leaders agree that the security situation is very bad and that a spark in any explosive area could have unrestrained international, regional, or local dimensions.

Flights Suspended After Raid

NC171756 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1654 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The Air France company has suspended its flights to Beirut until better security conditions exist. In a statement it issued in Paris a short while ago, the company said that the French air raids on the Al-Biqa' area confirm the lack of security. It should be recalled the company had suspended its flights last week.

Casualty Toll Reported in Israeli 16 Nov Raid

NC171754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Yesterday's Israeli raid on the Wadi Janta camp resulted, according to our correspondent in Al-Biqa', in the killing of 16 people and the wounding of 112 others. The dead include 5 Iranians. This information differs substantially from Israeli information media reports about the number of killed and wounded in the raid.

VOL Reports Israeli Attack in Ba'labakk 17 Nov

NC171508 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1501 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Twelve Israeli aircraft have attacked Shaykh Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk, which the Musawites [followers of Shi'ite leader Al-Musawi] occupied between 1630 and 1655.

These planes yesterday attacked An-Nabi Shit camp, which belongs to the Musawites. Israeli officials have repeatedly warned that they will fight terrorism wherever it is.

GCC Delegation Arrives, Meets With Palestinians

LD171309 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1157 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Damascus, 17 Nov (KUNA) — The GCC delegation which includes Shaykh Salman ad-Du'ayj as-Sabah, minister of justice and legal administrative affairs of Kuwait; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs of Qatar; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state for Saudi cabinet affairs, has arrived in Damascus.

At Damascus International Airport the delegation was met by Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Faruq ash-Shar'; 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Kandari, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus; Muhammad Sa'id al-Faraj, ambassador of Qatar in Damascus; and by Riyad ar-Rawwaf, Saudi charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Immediately upon its arrival the GCC delegation held a meeting at the house of the ambassador of the State of Kuwait with the leaders of the Palestinian resistance who are in Damascus. Later today the delegation will meet with a large number of Syrian officials.

More on Meeting

LD171609 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (KUNA) — A GCC delegation held a meeting this afternoon here at the residence of the Kuwaiti ambassador with a leading Palestinian delegation and a delegation of the opposition movement inside Fatah. The GCC delegation arrived here earlier today, and it comprises Minister of Justice and Legal administrative Affairs Shaykh Salman ad-Du'ayj as-Sabah, Saudi Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, and Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani. The meeting was attended on the side of the Palestinian leadership by PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum, and members of the PLO Executive Committee 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Talal Naji, representative of the Popular Front-General Command, Muhammad Khlaifah, representing As-Sa'iqah, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and director of the PLO office in Damascus Mahmud al-Khalidi, and on the opposition movement inside Fatah, by Nimr Salih (Abu Salih), Samih Abu Kuwayk (Qadri and Musa Awadh) and Colonel Sa'id Musa (Abu Musa), and Mahmud al-Labadi, official spokesman for the opposition movement.

Abu Musa said "We highly appreciate the efforts made by the GCC concerning the Palestinian arena and the prevention of the continuation of the Palestinian infighting." He added in a statement to KUNA: "We welcome a democratic dialogue with the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat on thecondition that he adheres to the content of the memorandum of the committee of 18 set up by the Central Palestinian Council," and he denied that the opposition movement has formed a central committee. Abu Musa said: "The formation of leaderships does not come from individual decisions, and the formation of a central committee is accomplished through the organizational frameworks and the fifth general conference of the movement." Concerning the situation in North Lebanon he said: "It is calm and the popular committees have begun to carry out their functions in Al-Baddawi camp," and confirmed that his forces will not enter Tripoli. The participants discussed the situation in north Lebanon and Tripoli.

Khaddam Meets Envoys

JN171848 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA) — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, this evening received Shaykh Salman ad-Du'ayj as-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of justice, legal, and administrative affairs; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; and Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi minister of state for cabinet affairs. The discussion during the meeting — which was attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Qatari ambassadors in Damascus — dealt with the current Arab situation.

Envoys Leave Damascus

JN172113 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA) — Shaykh Salman ad-Du'ayj as-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of justice, legal, and administrative affairs; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs; and Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, Saudi minister of state for cabinet affairs; left Damascus this evening following a brief visit to Syria. They were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Qatari ambassadors in Damascus.

Departure Statement

LD180040 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Damascus 17 Nov (SPA) — The GCC ministerial delegation comprising Minister of State and Cabinet member Muhammad Ibrahim Ma'sud, Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani and Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Legal Administrative Affairs Salman al-Du'ayj as-Sabah, left Damascus tonight after a short visit to Syria.

Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad ibn Sayf Al-Thani stressed that the GCC countries will do their best to stop the fighting and resolve the disputes among the Palestinians through democratic dialogue. He said in a statement before leaving Damascus that the meetings comes as the completion of previous meetings with the aim of halting the fighting within the Palestinian revolution.

Kuwaiti Envoy, Khaddam Discuss Lebanon

LD171351 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1205 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (KUNA) Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Kandari conferred in Damascus today with Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. After the meeting Al-Kandari said that the discussion dealt with the situation in Lebanon in general and the

situation in Tripoli and northern Lebanon in particular. It was stated here that the two sides have stressed their concern to spare the town of Tripoli and its inhabitants from destruction and ruin. They also stressed the importance of the intensification of Arab efforts to achieve this. Syrian sources said that Khaddam briefed al-Kandari on the outcome of his visit to both Moscow and Beirut.

Al-BA'TH Criticizes Rumsfeld's Middle East Tour

JN180848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "What Is Behind Rumsfeld's Tour in the Region," *AL-BA'TH* writes: With the tour of the Pentagon's envoy in the Middle East, U.S. policy has become more apparent. The Israeli threats have increased and the fangs of the Western allies have stuck out further. Rumsfeld's tour of the Italian coast, Cairo, and Tel Aviv shows that U.S. diplomacy will be conducted in accordance with McFarlane's threats. If the aim behind appointing a U.S. Presidential envoy to the Middle East is to seek peace in Lebanon, then where do the Egyptian regime and Israel figure in such a peace? Israel is in fact the source of threat to peace. A more salient fact is that the Cairo rulers are conducting an Arab orchestra that has a vested interest in the victory of the U.S. policy which they consider to be sacred because the White House is their shrine.

Therefore, the U.S. envoy came to pave the way for the U.S. fire and transform the pro-U.S. regimes in the region into hammers with which the United States can hit the Arab struggle on the Israeli anvil. Washington thinks that its moves can cover up its follies, and that the U.S. officials' contradictory statements will pacify those who are prepared to face its aggression. However, the U.S. Administration has lost its way and has miscalculated. Syria, which is the target, is certain of its own knowledge of U.S. machinations.

Syria may recognize the U.S. military weight, but it does not recognize the U.S. ability to forge its aims and desires. The United States may have found in some capitulatory Arab positions a justification for its interventions in the region. However, the United States intentionally ignores its Vietnamese lesson and the role of the masses in repeating this lesson. The United States may want to rectify its failure and save what it can from its plans through threats and Rumsfeld, but Syria and the Arab masses have taken all this into consideration in order to subject the U.S. diplomacy and plans to inevitable punishment.

U.S., Israel Oppose Lebanon-Syria Rapprochement

JN180759 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Nov 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Attempts at Blasting the Lebanese Rapprochement," *TISHRIN* says: The U.S. Administration continues to harp on the Syrian armaments at a time when it has transformed the Zionist state into a veritable arsenal of sophisticated, destructive weapons, extended for Israel the means of invading Lebanon, and used its full weight to intervene and impose on fraternal Lebanon an unjust agreement, which constitutes a serious threat to the security of Syria and the Arab region. Only yesterday, Israel admitted that it exchanges information with Washington on hostile targets. This means that the recent raid against Lebanon is within the U.S.-Israeli framework and was meant to terrorize the region and impose domination on it.

While continuing its threats and warnings, bragging about its military superiority and ability to destroy, Israel is accusing Syria of preparing for aggression against it. The U.S. officials' statements on Syria and their intentions to direct a retaliatory strike at it are countless, something which confirms joint coordination between Washington and Tel Aviv to prepare the climate for an aggression against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces.

TISHRIN adds: It seems that these threats and provocations are increased with the appearance of signs of rapprochement in Lebanon. The United States and Israel are interested in implementing the agreement of submission which has brought disasters and afflictions to Lebanon. The sabotage efforts have been mounting since the convening of the Geneva dialogue conference and its preliminary results which were represented by revising the infamous agreement and affirming Lebanon's Arab identity and pan-Arab affiliation. These sabotage efforts are coupled with a hysterical campaign against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces, and with flagrant threats and provocations, especially following President al-Jumayyil's declaration on the approach of his visit to Damascus and following the appearance of a genuine rapprochement between the two fraternal countries — a rapprochement that was represented by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit to Beirut, his talks with the Lebanese president, and the confirmation of Al-Jumayyil's visit to the Syrian capital to hold intensive consultations with President Hafiz al-Asad.

It is no coincidence that the Zionist state should raid Lebanon at a time when Khaddam was reviving the Syrian-Lebanese dialogue after a long period during which great events have taken place.

ATH-THAWRAH: Syria Will Continue To Help Lebanon

JN171230 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA) — In its editorial today, *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The United States and Israel want to turn Lebanon into a bridgehead for aggression against Syria and the Arab homeland and into a U.S. base and Israeli protectorate.

ATH-THAWRAH asserts that the path toward saving Lebanon is represented by earnest efforts to end the U.S.-Israeli presence, to annul the agreement of submission and its restrictions imposed on Lebanon, and to remove the threat to Lebanon's future, unity, security, and stability.

ATH-THAWRAH continues: Syria is ready to discuss ways to help achieve Lebanon's independence and sovereignty over its territories as well as its stability, its people's unity, and territorial

integrity. Syria will continue to exert efforts to help Lebanon solve its crisis.

TISHRIN: Strafing Al-Biqa' 'Prelude to Aggression'
JN180906 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Damascus, 18 Nov (SANA) — In a commentary under the headline "Signs of Implementing the Aggression," *TISHRIN* says: It seems that the U.S.-NATO-Zionist aggression against Lebanon has entered a new stage of escalation in the wake of planes strafing some Lebanese areas during the past 2 days. The newspaper adds: The United States is the brains and the force behind other forces of aggression.

TISHRIN asserts that Syria will not be acquiescent regarding the aggression as the (planners?) and those who carried out the aggression imagine. Syria will defend itself with all the weapons it owns, because its silence over the enemy's provocations will not prevent those enemies from repeating and escalating their provocations in confronting the Syrian force. [as heard]

Concluding its commentary, *TISHRIN* asks: Does the aggressive strafing of Al-Biqa' area not represent a preparatory operation, the aim of which is to justify premeditated aggression?

Lebanese Party Leader Praises Changes in Lebanon
JN170825 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut — In'am Ra'd, leader of the National Syrian Social Party, has asserted that a strategic coup has taken place in Lebanon in favor of those forces which challenge the Zionist hegemony plot. This, he added, is due to Syria's steadfastness on the pan-Arab and international levels. In a political statement yesterday, Ra'd said that the imperialist-Zionist alliance is currently trying to change the current political formula by preparing a new aggression against the Lebanese nationalist areas and Syria. He pointed out that the transformation of the Marines from a peace-keeping force into a force of revenge constitutes a violation of its original role on Lebanese territory.

Regarding the results of the Geneva dialogue conference, Ra'd said: These results were positive, but not enough. We await the cancellation of the 17 May agreement and the realization of political and social reform in Lebanon.

Radio Free Lebanon Reports Talas Departure
NC172013 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas suddenly cancelled a scheduled interview with a U.S. television network tonight. Syrian officials informed the journalists that Talas had left Syria without specifying his destination.

Al-Asad Receives Cable From Palestinian Leader
JN172058 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of congratulation from Dr Samir Ghushah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, in which he said: Syria's steadfastness, sound defense system, efficient combat skills, fateful cohesion with the Palestinian revolution, Lebanese nationalist forces, and the Arab liberation forces that are supported by the socialist bloc countries, the foremost of which is the friendly USSR, have made this region into a solid rock on which all conspiracies and hostile and suspect plans will founder.

We in the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front affirm the established alliance with Syria, and stress the need to strengthen the relations of struggle between the Palestinian revolution and Syria because of their strategic importance at the historical moments our cause and nation are currently facing in order to confront the imperialist and Zionist plans, to ward off danger from our nation, and to achieve all of its objectives and ambitions.

Presidential Spokesman Says Al-Asad 'Recovering'
JN171552 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] A presidential spokesman in Damascus said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's health continues to improve following the surgery he underwent last Monday, and that he is recovering.

Talks With France To Save 'Arafat Alleged

TA171548 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1525 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Israel and France are negotiating to evacuate Yasir 'Arafat from the besieged town of Tripoli, according to the French weekly *VSD* [Vendredi, Samedi, Dimanche], quoting senior sources in Israel. Israel's consent for this is necessary because of its control over the river, which is the only way open for 'Arafat's retreat. Here is a report on this from Paris by Tamar Golan:

[Begin recording] The French weekly *VSD*, which appears in Paris, this morning, reported on secret negotiations on the removal of Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli, which are underway between Israel and France. The report was by the weekly's correspondent in Israel, citing senior Israeli officials, who emphasized in their conversations with him that Israel has the power to foil any plan to evacuate 'Arafat without its consent. The report also says that various ways to evacuate him are being examined, one involving the maritime route direct from Tripoli to a French ship; the other transferring him on land to Beirut and from there to a French ship or aircraft, on which he would arrive in Paris or any Arab country such as Tunisia.

The Israelis pointed out that they have control over the sea, and that if he is removed by land, 'Arafat will be forced to cross an area controlled by the Phalangists.

It was impossible to obtain official confirmation of this report in Paris. However, President Mitterrand himself declared last night in a live television interview that all the parties involved — Israel included — must not think now of this or that organization, but of the fate of the 5 million Palestinians who are nomadic and being evicted from place to place, and whose sons and women are being butchered primarily by their Arab kinsmen.

Various PLO emissaries have likewise visited Paris over the past few days, among them Faruq Qaddumi. On the other hand, Ibrahim as-Sus — the PLO representative to Paris — declared here that the aid the French are extending to his organization is of a humanitarian nature alone, and the PLO has not appealed to the French in any other way. As-Sus also claimed that if 'Arafat wants to leave Tripoli, he will be able to do so on his own whenever he wants and in the way that he sees as the most appropriate. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Denial

TA180821 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday flatly denied a French magazine report of ongoing consultations between France and Israel on arrangements to rescue Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli by French ship or plane.

"Fiddlesticks," the spokesman said. "We know nothing of this."

He pointed out that if France decided to remove 'Arafat from Tripoli aboard a French ship or a French plane Israel would hardly be likely to attack that French craft — and thus there was no need for French-Israeli "consultations" on the matter.

Israel Radio gave prominence to the reports from Paris that on November 5 French President Francois Mitterrand had authorized a French ship stationed off the Lebanese coast to escort 'Arafat, who would be aboard a Greek ship.

Other reports suggested 'Arafat might be evacuated by air from Beirut and the contacts with Israel sought a guarantee of safe passage for 'Arafat.

The radio broadcast a report by Arab affairs specialist Aharon Barne'a, in which he noted the Israel Navy patrols the waters off Tripoli, "so it makes a lot of sense that there are contacts between France and Israel."

Paris Embassy Denies Knowledge of French Raid

TA171717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The French Defense Ministry spokesman in Paris has announced that the aircraft that took part in the attack on Ba'labakk were Super Etendard planes that returned home safely after having completed their mission. They took off from the *Clemenceau aircraft carrier. This is the second air raid the* French aircraft have carried out in Lebanon in 2 months.

Spokesman for the U.S. and Israeli Embassies in Paris have explained that no one in Washington and Jerusalem knew anything about France's bombardment plans.

IDF Has 'No Information' of Syrian Attack

TA171833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Reports from Beirut say Syrian forces fired at Israeli planes flying over the Al-Biqa' today; no hits were reported. The Israeli Army spokesman said he had no information about this.

Papers Comment on French Air Raid in Lebanon

TA180744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 18 Nov 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* says that the "no" contained in Wednesday's Syrian announcement that it will not let attacks on Syrian facilities go unnoticed implies a "yes," that is, that Khomeyni targets in Lebanon are free hunting zones. The planning of the French operation in the Ba'labakk area may have preceded Syria's announcement and the Israeli bombing, and it was only by coincidence that the two bombings took place one day after the other. However, coincidence sounds like a poor explanation in view of the fact that the French bombing occurred almost 3 weeks after the attack on the French facility. At the same time, it is possible to assume that the other French effort, that of rescuing 'Arafat, is also intended to strengthen the status of the Mitterrand regime as one which has adopted an active security and foreign affairs policy. Mitterrand, and even more so Cheysson, want to protect 'Arafat and maintain his status as the

Palestinian spokesman. By rescuing him from Tripoli, as much as by bombing the Shi'ite fanatics, France will win over the moderate Arab countries. Ironically, U.S. prestige has been damaged by the French bombing. If the Americans continue to be passive over the attack on the U.S. Marines, they will appear helpless in comparison with the Israelis and French. If they bomb now, they will appear to be acting late, by way of imitation, and perhaps also when the objectives have lost some of their importance.

HAMODI'A writes that what is clear now, after the French Air Force raided the Ba'labakk region yesterday, is that Israel has gained unexpected aid from an unexpected source, and on a scale that will probably have quite an influence in the future. The French spared the Israeli Air Force effort and quite a few expensive weapons [emtza'ey lehima] which Israel would have invested to achieve the same goal. For this, the French Government deserves our full appreciation.

Peres To Meet Mitterrand in Paris Next Week

TA181104 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Report by A. Yafe]

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres is to be received next week by French President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace. Peres is to pass through Paris on his way to a congress of the Socialist International Bureau in Brussels. The talks will focus on the issue of Lebanon and France's activity on behalf of 'Arafat.

At the same time, it has been learned that former President Giscard d'Estaing is to visit Israel next month and meet with senior ministers. Yesterday, Giscard received Israeli Ambassador 'Ovadya Sofer for a get-acquainted meeting. He has already postponed his visit to Israel three times, on various pretexts.

One Soldier Killed in Sidon Bomb Explosion

TA180501 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2230 GMT 17 Nov 83

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement No 1" — ITIM headline]

[Text] An IDF soldier was killed and six others slightly wounded yesterday evening by the explosion of a bomb which was planted on the shoulder of the road in the southern suburbs of Sidon as an IDF convoy was traveling through the place. The soldiers opened fire at those who set off the bomb. The IDF forces which arrived at the site began extensive searches. The family of the dead soldier was notified.

Junblatt Envoy Meets Officials; Seeks Dialogue

TA171250 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] Dr 'Atif Sallum, Junblatt's representative in contacts with Israel, met with senior elements yesterday in order to promote the dialogue between the Druze and Israel.

Dr Sallum, a physician from 'Alayh, is a familiar face in Israel from his previous visits. He arrived in Israel the day before yesterday in order to confer with officials. According to Dr Sallum, it is necessary to look again at the agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon in order to change a number of clauses. However, Dr Sallum noted that the agreement will not constitute an obstacle to continuing the relations desired by the Druze. Among other things, Dr Sallum presented a demand [derishat] by the Lebanese Druze for the release of 102 Druze, residents of the Ash-Shuf Mountains, who are jailed in the Ansar camp, although they have not been tried so far, nor have charges been brought against them. Dr Sallum added that as a result of the agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon, five Druze villages have remained in the hands of the Phalange and the Lebanese Army. These include Kafr Matta', (Abiyya), Bi'wirta and another two small villages in the region. In addition, Dr Sallum complained that the residents of the villages of Niha and Batir located near Jazzin and 4 km from one another are prevented from moving freely from one village to the other due to an IDF roadblock in the middle. According to Dr Sallum, the residents of Tyre, Sidon, and Beirut visit their relatives after an hour-long trip despite the long distances they sometimes cover, while the residents of these two villages have to wait for hours in order to travel the 4 km. It should be noted that the Druze Followup Committee members accompanied Dr Sallum in his meetings with senior elements in Israel yesterday.

Ash-Shuf Christians Say Druze Mine Villages

TA181012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] The Christian residents of the Ash-Shuf Mountains say that Junblatt's Druze have planted minefields around about 20 villages deserted by the Christians in the Dayr al-Qamar area in order to prevent them from returning. The Christians who arrived in southern Lebanon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Junblatt's men laid ambushes at the entrances to these villages, and they fire at any Christian who tries to approach. As a result, 10 people were killed and 10 others captured by the Druze militia this past week.

Permits Required for Vehicles Crossing Al-Awwali
TA171310 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1247 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] New procedures have been effected on the Al-Awwali River bridges: As of today, vehicles are allowed to cross the bridges only with a special permit issued by the IDF's liaison unit. Our military correspondent 'Arad Nir points out that pedestrians do not need permits.

PLO UN Observer Interviewed on 'Arafat
TA171331 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 pp 1,7

[Interview with Labib at-Tarazi,permanent PLO observer to the United Nations, by *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* correspondent Yehuda Atlas and *DAVAR* correspondent 'Aliza Wallach — at the UN cafeteria in New York on 16 November; telegraphed from New York]

[Text] "If 'Arafat is liquidated, he will become a martyr, and to the Arab mentality a martyr is more important than a living leader." This was the statement Labib at-Tarazi, the PLO's permanent observer to the United Nations, made to us yesterday. He was one of the people who entered the UN General Assembly hall only to demonstratively emerge from it before the start of the speech by Israeli President Hayim Herzog. "Why did you leave?" we asked him.

At-Tarazi answered: "I cannot tolerate such a person — who was his country's ambassador to this international organization and in 1975 tore up the UN declaration stating that Zionism is tantamount to racism — returning here, this time as the president of his country, in order to use the UN rostrum as a soapbox to spread propaganda and hatred. For me, Herzog represents a government whose leaders once collaborated with the Nazis." [as published]

Even when he makes statements of this kind, At-Tarazi keeps a composed and gentle countenance, and his manner of speaking indicates that he is a "student" of everything pertaining to the history of Zionism, Israel, its personages, parties, and events.

After Herzog's speech, *DAVAR* correspondent 'Aliza Wallach and I passed by his table in the cafeteria, and he willingly agreed to answer questions by Israeli journalists: "Why should I refuse?"

Question: Have you recently talked with 'Arafat?

Answer: Just this morning, in fact, and I am going to call him again immediately.

Question: What did he say?

Answer: He told me that the battle over the Al-Baddawi camp is over, but that his forces hit 14 tanks. Who do you think these tanks belong to? The rebels? No. They belong to the Syrians.

Question: What mood was 'Arafat in when he talked to you? Did he sound desperate?

Answer: You can never tell with 'Arafat. Whether it is on the telephone or face to face, he talks and you do not know what in fact is happening in his mind.

Question: In your opinion, what will happen if 'Arafat is liquidated?

Answer: He will turn into a martyr and to the Arab mentality a martyr is more important than a living leader. You too have the same mentality: Bar Kochba for example.

Question: Who are you in fact representing now, 'Arafat or the rebels?

Answer: I am not representing 'Arafat as such. I am representing the PLO's supreme council, which was democratically elected. As long as a different leadership has not been chosen, this is the council which represents the Palestinian cause and I am the person who represents it here.

Question: What do you think about the anti-'Arafat rebellion?

Answer: The rebels and the Syrians who support them are criminals. The Syrians are forcefully trying to put a military group faithful to them at the head of the PLO.

Question: Who is to blame for the bloodshed in the PLO today?

"Ultimately speaking, At-Tarazi answered with the smile of a person who knows he is giving a diplomatic reply, Israel and Zionism are to blame for it."

Question: Do you think that if the Alignment returns to power in Israel there is a better chance for rapprochement and a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians?

Answer: The Alignment is no different from the Likud. After all, the Rabin government began the settlements at the time. Golda Me'ir too was Alignment, if I am not mistaken....

All we want is for you first to declare equality of rights for the Palestinians in Israel. If you do this, you will pull the rug out from under my feet. What will I then be able to say? Look, Jews such as Mati Peled and Uri Avneri met with PLO members and everything was fine. However, when an Arab bastard [mamzer], if you please, came from Haifa to the Geneva conference, he returned to Israel and was thrown in jail. Why? Only because he is an Arab. Only when I return to my house in Jerusalem, sit and drink coffee with my brethren, only then will it be possible to talk.

Question: What is your reaction to the incidents involving booby-trapped cars in Beirut and Tyre?

Answer: The action against the Americans was not against a force of peacekeepers, but against occupiers. They have fought against our people. The same applies to the explosion in Tyre: This is an action against an occupying force.

Question: Are you in favor of such actions?

Answer: There is no choice.

Question: Who, in your opinion, can form a real contact or dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians?

Answer: A movement such as Peace Now.

Efforts To Close PLO Offices Abroad Discouraged

TA171105 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Tuvya Mendelson]

[Text] A proposal to instruct the Israeli missions abroad not to increase their activity aimed at bringing about the closing of PLO offices in the various capitals is being examined in Jerusalem now.

The proposal is being discussed against the background of assessments by Jerusalem senior political elements who believe that even if Yasir 'Arafat disappears from the arena, his organization will continue to exist and even be recognized by the countries which have recognized it so far.

Since the beginning of the war between 'Arafat and the rebel forces, Jerusalem has been alertly following the developments. The people following these developments have different assessments regarding 'Arafat's chances of surviving the strong military pressures being applied to him by forces supported by Syria.

These elements believe that the PLO will continue to exist even if 'Arafat does not lead it. This assessment is based, among other things, on the assumption that the PLO is an organization which has won recognition in the international community. If this organization ceases to exist, Jordan will have to represent and present the Palestinian issue. The possibility does not seem realistic to the people who deal with this matter in Israel, since it would be compatible with the claim, unquestioned by some people in Israel, that Jordan is Palestine.

According to these assessments, the policy currently being consolidated is that activity intended to bring about the closing of the PLO offices abroad not be increased. At the same time, Jerusalem expects that the "Palestinian problem" will continue to be directed toward Israel. As a result, the plan in Israel is to make extensive use of the report of Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat on the refugee camps and Israel's programs to rehabilitate them. Thus, the senior political elements believe, Israel will be able to present a "positive" line: restoration of the refugee camps, as opposed to the negative approach which is most prominently expressed in the total rejection of the PLO.

Recommendations of Tyre Commission Published

TA171534 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 pp 5, 8

[Text] Recommendations to examine the issuance of an instruction which restricts the number of people in high-rise buildings, as well as an instruction which limits the maximum size of an IDF facility which may serve as a target for attack are included in the report of the inquiry commission on the Tyre disaster headed by Major General (reserves) Amnon Reshef.

The commission also recommends that the location of IDF camps and facilities inside or alongside Lebanese villages or towns be examined, with the aim of relocating them outside the villages or towns, or in sparsely populated areas. The commission also recommends the protection and safeguarding of those facilities or camps that are left in the heart or on the outskirts of the populated area against all possible threats.

The investigation of the commission indicates that the sector commander's instruction to physically block the access road to the Tyre base with an armored personnel carrier [APC] was implemented immediately after the attack on the Multinational Force [MNF] in Beirut, but that after the concrete roadblocks were set up, the APC's were removed from the entrances. The commission further states that the concrete roadblock placed at the entrance to the border police camp failed to meet the need for its placement there and that the gate to the camp was closed with an unlocked chain, thus making it possible for the vehicle to easily break into the camp.

The commission notes that since the attack on the MNF on 23 October there had been awareness of the possibility of a terrorist attack with a booby-trapped car, an alert had been increased on all levels, and actions taken to prevent it. The quick reaction of the guards at the gates and the firing toward the booby-trapped car demonstrates their alertness, the commission states, adding that the safeguarding measures determined for the camps in Tyre met the demands.

The commission nevertheless points out specific blunders connected with guarding the camps. These, however, do not seem to have had any effect [hashpa'a] on the attack.

The inquiry commission examined those activities regarding rescue, medical treatment, and evacuation after the terrorist act. As for the medical sphere, the commission states that the medical system began working immediately after the terrorist act and that it worked properly.

As for the rescue operation, the commission reached the conclusion that the rescue forces acted with speed and efficiency. The commission states that most of the lessons drawn from the disaster in Tyre last year were properly implemented. It recommends that the regular rescue team in the chief Infantry Officer Command be increased.

As for the intelligence sphere the commission states that since the attack on the MNF in Beirut, the possibility that a booby-trapped car would be used against an IDF facility was raised and strongly emphasized by intelligence elements and commanders on all levels.

Representatives of the Chief Infantry Officer Command, the Engineering Corps, the Border police, the Air Force, the Chief Medical Officer Command, the Shin Bet, and the Israeli police participated in the inquiry commission.

In the course of the commission's investigation it transpired that the booby-trapped car was a Chevrolet pickup truck which carried dynamite weighing between 500 and 700 kg.

The commission interrogated all the people who were in the camp at the time of the terrorist act (except for two critically wounded soldiers) as well as local residents living in an adjacent building and a number of UNIFIL soldiers from an adjacent camp. The head of the commission, Maj Gen (reserves) Amnon Reshef, met with Major General Me'ir Zore'a, who headed the inquiry commission looking into last year's Tyre disaster and examined with him the possible link between the two incidents.

IDF Implements Recommendations

TA171900 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1835 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 17 Nov (ITIM) — IDF units in Lebanon recently began implementing the conclusions of the inquiry commission looking into the Tyre disaster. Special units are now busy trying to locate areas in which a number of IDF bases — which in the near future will be transferred from high-rise buildings to one-story buildings — will be established or removed from densely populated areas to unpopulated areas.

The ITIM correspondent reports that the number of commands now located in high-rise buildings is small because immediately after the previous Tyre disaster [a year ago] the IDF took care to evacuate commands from high-rise buildings. The IDF is also keeping only a limited number of commands amid hostile populations or inside villages. It was learned that there is an intention to evacuate them to other places, although this will cost the IDF a lot of money. The liaison offices of the IDF aid units will remain at their present locations for the time being; however, they will be guarded more carefully.

The officers on duty in the IDF commands in Lebanon will have to personally supervise the change of guards. The ITIM correspondent reports that part of the committee's conclusions concern the subject of changing guards and the fact that the terrorists took advantage of this situation. Accordingly, the soldiers on guard duty will be forbidden from moving from their posts until those that are to relieve them arrive and take their posts. All this must be under the supervision of the officer on duty.

The new orders issued this week in Lebanon state that the waking of the soldiers will be done by a soldier who is not on guard duty.

The ITIM correspondent also learned that guard duty had been enhanced at IDF bases in Israel and that the soldiers were asked to be more alert. The IDF fears that there may be similar attempts in Israel.

Ben-Me'ir Comments on Talks With Rumsfeld

TA171236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Visiting U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld conferred with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir today. Rumsfeld is making his first trip to Israel in his new post as President Reagan's special Middle East representative. Yehuda Ben-Me'ir talked to reporter David Essing about his talks with Rumsfeld:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Me'ir] We had a good overview of the various issues, discussing the situation in Lebanon. We stressed the common objectives of the United States and Israel in Lebanon, and again, as they say, we discussed and presented our view on a variety of issues in the area, in Lebanon, Syria, etc.

[Essing] Dr Ben-Me'ir, Rumsfeld arrived in Israel the day of the Israeli air strike against the terrorist bases in Lebanon. What was the purpose of that air strike?

[Ben-Me'ir] The purpose of the air strike, which was an Israeli action taken by Israel on her own and by herself, was as we made clear: Those terrorist organizations which will perpetrate these monstrous terrorist activities against us will not enjoy immunity. We will search for them wherever they are and strike at them. And, yesterday, we struck a good blow against those murderers who were the ones responsible for the terrorist action and the killing of our people in Tyre as well as those who were responsible for the terrorist action against the U.S. Marines and French troops in Beirut.

[Essing] The air strike was discussed with Rumsfeld. What was his position with regards to it?

[Ben-Me'ir] We did not discuss it at all; in our meeting today, it was not even mentioned in one word. [end recording]

Shamir To Focus on Economic Problems in U.S.

TA171450 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that a considerable part of his forthcoming talks in the United States will be devoted to Israel's economic problems. In the course of the talks he will ask the United States to help Israel in the economic sphere. In his opinion there is readiness in Washington to help Israel solve its problems. The prime minister made these statements in the course of a tour of a number of industrial concerns in central Israel, as the guest of the Manufacturers' Association.

Mr Shamir said further that he hoped the negotiations between employers, the Histadrut, and the government would end in results acceptable to all the parties. He stressed that inflation must be fought, but that concurrently, other measures must be taken to improve the balance of payments. Mr Shamir expressed his unreserved support for the finance minister's stand and noted that the Cabinet also wholly supported this position.

As for a national unity government, the prime minister said that he was not prepared to evaluate the chances of forming such a government, but that he hoped sooner or later to arrive at positive conclusions with the partners suitable for such a government.

At noon today, Shim'on Peres told members of the Labor Party Central Committee that the Alignment did not intend to join such a government. Mr Peres stated that the prime minister had indeed raised the proposal earlier this week, but he did not think that the situation now was any different from what it was earlier when the Labor Party had decided against joining the coalition.

Ilia Comments on Disturbances in West Bank

TA171414 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 16 Nov 83 p 15

[Report on interview with the head of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia, by Yoni Sa'ar; date and place not given]

[Text] Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia is the commander [as published] of the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria. On a madcap day this week, between a quick trip from his office in Ramallah to a meeting at the defense minister's office, Ilia managed to evade the sharp questions of journalist Dan Margalit on the Erev Hadash [New Evening] television program and to comment on the latest developments with supreme spiritual calm.

According to Ilia, sabotage activities in the territories will now increase. The military annihilation of 'Arafat leaves him with only one military option here, in the West bank: inciting the inhabitants to carry out local attacks. Once the situation in Tripoli is clear, Ilia believes, the pockets of rebellion will also expand to the West Bank and the rebels will air their opinions.

Ilia recounts that the relative calm among the various factions in the West Bank is a temporary occurrence. A few months ago, there were several disturbances on the Bi'r Zayt University campus between 'Arafat supporters and opponents. The management closed the campus at its own initiative until things calmed down.

According to Brig Gen Ilia, the inhabitants of the territories will not split into two groups. The supporters of 'Arafat will move in the direction of Jordan and his opponents will turn toward Syria. He foresees an escalation of activities and a strong reawakening of political consciousness.

Question: Is 'Arafat's downfall good or bad for the Jews?

Answer: It depends. In the short run, his downfall benefits us. In the long run, however, it depends upon how the vacuum is filled.

Question: How?

Answer: In my opinion, we should promote the local leadership in the territories. We and Jordan should do this jointly. The question is whether this cause will be supported by the Arab and Western countries. Without massive outside support they will not dare organize and Husayn will not dare offer them a home.

According to Ilia, the rebellion in the PLO was definitely the consequence of the Lebanon war. 'Arafat's withdrawal from Beirut and his willingness to enter into a dialogue with the Americans and accept their plan harmed him politically in the PLO.

"We won in Lebanon in the short term because we drove the PLO into the ground. However, if we do not put something in its stead, the vacuum will be filled by extremists and that is dangerous," Ilia concluded.

Continuing West Bank Unrest

TA171047 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 2

[Report by Roni Sade]

[Text] The security forces are prepared for possible demonstrations in Judaea and Samaria in support of 'Arafat after the fall of the Al-Baddawi camp to the rebels.

The unrest continued yesterday in the West Bank:

— Yesterday evening a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF infantry patrol in the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. The soldiers shot in the air in order to chase the attackers away.

— Anti-Syrian and pro-'Arafat slogans were written yesterday in a number of villages in Samaria.

— Students in the Kadri Tuqan school in Nabulus threw stones at the settlers' yeshiva at Joseph's Tomb.

— In the morning, two Egged buses were stoned near the Al-'Arrub refugee camp in Judaea. There were no injuries.

— The curfew in Ad-Duhayshah camp continues. Yesterday morning the curfew was lifted for 2 hours to allow the population to buy provisions. Many youths from the camp were able to slip away from the camp yesterday and went to work.

— At B'ir Zayt University, studies were interrupted yesterday, and it is expected that studies will be interrupted again today as a result of the administration's request that the teachers sign work permits.

— The Civilian Administration decided to reopen the (Tariq Abu Ziyad) school in Bethlehem, which was closed in the middle of last week after students stoned a settler's vehicle. The shutdown directive was issued for 1 month, but it seems that in the last few days the United States has pressured Israel to reopen the education institutions that were shut down in the West Bank. Therefore, it was decided to reopen the school earlier than planned.

Tension Reported Between Shamir, David Levi

TA171243 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Tuvya Mendelson]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi's recent statements made against the backdrop of developments in Syria have caused increased tension between him and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, *DAVAR* has learned from reliable sources.

As reported in *DAVAR*, David Levi's declarations evoked criticism from senior Likud elements, but it now transpires that the prime minister was personally displeased with David Levi's statements.

It is believed by elements in the Likud that one of the reasons that led Levi to address himself to military issues is that he wants to speed up his appointment as foreign minister. Levi has recently declared that Shamir promised him this appointment, and the assessment is that the deputy prime minister is not willing to wait for the 3 months at the end of which Shamir said he would make changes in his cabinet. Herut circles close to David Levi totally reject the allegation that Levi wants to speed up his appointment as foreign minister and that there is any connection between his statements on Syria and the foreign affairs portfolio. They say that he spoke out of a sincere fear caused by the reports on the scale of the Syrian Army buildup.

As for the foreign affairs portfolio, there are those in Herut who do not hide their displeasure with the delay in David Levi's appointment to that post. In the view of several Herut personalities, Yitzhaq Shamir should have prevented the composition of the new Foreign Ministry directorate from being completed, in view of his intention to appoint a new foreign minister, and to avoid presenting the latter with a fait accompli.

Rabin Opposes Unity Government; Raps Secrecy

TA171909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin has come out strongly against a national unity government. Interviewed by our correspondent Amnon Nadav, Rabin said that the subject should be struck off the agenda until Yitzhaq Shamir expresses readiness to accept the conditions the Labor Party presented for this at the time. He said that the solution to the problem lies in amending the policy involving a change of administration and holding early elections. All the other ways are wrong, he said. MK Rabin also criticized the fact that the meeting between Shim'on Peres and the prime minister was held in secrecy, saying that such contacts should be held out in the open.

Sharon Visits Beirut; Wishes To Head Herut

TA181106 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 83 p 2

[Text](ITIM) — Yesterday evening, Minister Ari'el Sharon said that several days ago he visited Beirut and held contacts with Lebanese. He refused to say with whom he spoke or whether he had arrived at any agreements. [heskemim] Sharon, who appeared before an ideological group of the Herut Movement in the Irgun Building in Tel Aviv, said he regretted Aridor's resignation from the Herut Movement's secretariat, "but since he has resigned, I am ready to be secretary of the Herut Movement."

Independent Arab Party Emerging in North

TA171419 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 3

[Report by the Galilee correspondent]

[Text] An independent Arab party is emerging in Israel. The protest rally of the "Progressive Movement - Nazareth" against the intervention by the Syrian regime on behalf of the PLO rebels attracted to it delegations from six Arab villages (Shefar'am, Sahknin, 'Arraba, Deir Hanna, Jatt, Deir al-Asad). Congratulatory telegrams from Yafo and Haifa Arab activists reached the rally. It seems that rain and the cutting of telephone lines prevented some additional delegations from reaching the rally.

Uri Avneri was the only Jewish guest at the rally.

The leader of the "Tenu'a" [Movement] faction in the Nazareth municipality, Attorney Kamal (Dahr), in his speech during the meeting, called for the establishment of a national party or a federation of local groups which will rally the Israeli Arab public behind it in a struggle over equality in civilian and national rights and over "freedom from dependence on existing parties." The *HA'ARETZ correspondent noted that the cooperation between* the Nazareth group and other groups will be expressed in the coming days when a pamphlet is issued containing the summary of the speakers' remarks during the protest rally held in Nazareth.

Military, Civilian Authorities May Be Combined

TA171256 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that deliberations have recently been held in the defense establishment regarding the possibility of uniting the Civilian Administration and the military government into a single authority. They were split during Ari'el Sharon's term as defense minister upon the appointment of Menahem Milson as head of the Civilian Administration. Our correspondent has learned that the coordinator of activities in the territories, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, wants to go back to the previous state of affairs and points to the difficulties that cropped up in the territories due to the introduction of the Civilian Administration there. However, the supporters of the separation claim that all the difficulties arose only when the Civilian Administration first began to operate, and that now there is good coordination between the two authorities.

Defense Minister Arens does not want to go back to the previous state of affairs because of the political implications of such a move. This issue has been transferred to experts and no date has been set as yet for continued deliberations.

Burg Holds Talks With Austrian Officials

TA171911 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1855 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 17 Nov (ITIM) — Minister of Interior and Religious Affairs Dr Yosef Burg, who returned to Israel this evening from a visit to Austria and Switzerland, feels it is possible that the cancellation of his planned visits to Hungary and East Germany was prompted by published reports of his intended visits to these countries.

Dr Burg further stated that in Austria he had met with the Austrian prime minister as well as other cabinet ministers,

including the foreign affairs, national defense, and interior ministers and opposition leaders.

In reply to questions, he noted that in his talks with the Austrian defense minister the two had reached an understanding since, after all, both countries are close to the Russians — the Austrians with their common border with the Soviet Union [as received], and we with our proximity to Syria.

In the political talks he raised the possibility of and the need for a resumption of the autonomy talks, since Austria has close links with Palestinian elements. He pointed out that the picture of the situation is clearer now, and the Austrians are beginning to realize that the 'Arafat issue is not just a matter between the Israelis and Palestinians, but a problem of Syria wanting to take over Lebanon.

He further mentioned that Europe had been using a double standard in denouncing Israel for acts it never committed in Sabra and Shatila; yet the world had remained silent while thousands of Palestinians were being killed by their own compatriots.

Dr Burg attended the opening of the European B'nai B'rith Conference. He was in Austria on an Israel Bonds Mission.

President Herzog Addresses UN General Assembly

TA171440 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 83 pp 3,6

[Report from New York by Yehuda Atlas]

[Excerpts] Hayim Herzog returned yesterday to his old milieu — the UN building in New York — this time as president to address the General Assembly. However, whoever thought that as a result of the nobility of his new position he would give a silky speech was mistaken. Although his tone was somewhat monotonous and calm, what he said was full of assurance.

"I am grieved," said Herzog after a short nostalgic opening, "that politics and fear still pervade this place. There are some countries among those whose representatives left the hall who ask for and receive technological and agricultural aid from Israel and whose students come to Israel to receive special training. Their representatives left for one reason only — fear. The essence of the Middle East problem has been laid bare before you: Unwillingness to negotiate, fear of confronting the stands of the other side."

Herzog hailed Anwar as-Sadat and the Camp David accords: "How sad that this organization, which is supposedly dedicated to world peace, denounced these accords, whose main achievement was that since As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem no Israeli or Egyptian soldiers have been killed in the Sinai or along the common border. This is very important to mothers in Egypt and in Israel."

Herzog attacked the actions of Syria in Lebanon, the attempts by Syria to undermine the Israeli-Lebanese accord and its desire to swallow up Lebanon. The president explained Israel's motives in entering Lebanon, which were to destroy the terror that threatened the safety of Israel's northern villages. He reiterated Israel's position that all its forces would retreat when satisfactory arrangements are found that will ensure the security of Israel against Lebanese-based terrorists.

"We will not agree that any country from the rejectionist front has a right to veto the creation of normal relations between Israel and its neighbor," he said while criticizing the Syrian refusal to retreat from Lebanon, and the Palestinians for not taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Camp David accords and for rejecting any compromise. He called on the Egyptians to return to the autonomy negotiations and to the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to join in these negotiations.

The president criticized the UN's obsessive involvement with the Israeli-Arab conflict while neglecting other zones where there is more bloodshed. "In one day of fighting between Iraq and Iran there were more casualties than in all the wars of Israel on all sides."

He hailed the equality of rights for minorities in Israel and criticized the Soviet Union for the treatment of Jews, particularly drawing attention to Yosef Bigun's trial, in which he received 12 years' imprisonment and deportation. "For the crime of studying Hebrew, the language of the prophets, the language in which Isaiah voiced his prophecy, the prophecy which is engraved at the entrance of this building." He ended his speech with a call for dialogue and for peace.

Public Split Over West Bank Settlements

TA180828 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Nov p 3

[Text] Just over half of all Israelis are prepared to give up all or some of the West Bank in return for peace with Jordan; but the largest single group, 43 percent, is opposed to ceding any territory, even for peace.

This was found in the latest *JERUSALEM POST* poll, conducted by Dr Sarah Shemer of the Modi'in Ezrachi Research Institute. A representative sample of 1,238 adults were interviewed between October 12 and 21.

Only 9.3 percent said they were willing to cede all Judaea and Samaria, except for Jerusalem; but 41 percent were willing to consider a compromise over some areas. On the far left, 3 percent were prepared to give up all the territories, including East Jerusalem.

On the settlements, a total of 54 percent favoured a freeze on new settlements, with 22 percent even agreeing to the selective dismantlement of some settlements. However, 31 percent refused even to consider a freeze on new settlements.

ALGERIA

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on PLO 'Tragedy'

LD180110 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] In a statement published today, an Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman announced that Algeria, which is following the development of events in the Middle East with great concern and which will not spare any effort to stop the tragedy taking place among brothers, and which has always hoped that sense will prevail, has learned with all sorrow and bewilderment of the new blow struck against the Palestinian resistance in the Al Baddawi camp. The statement added: The everlasting conspiracy hatched against the Arab nation and the basic interests of its peoples will take advantage of the incalculable consequences of this and will impose challenges of new dimensions. Those who carry the heavy responsibility for this toward the Arab nation and their peoples, in the first instance, must know that they are harming the most sacred element of the Arab cause; the liberation of Palestine.

The statement added: There is no excuse or justification that could give legitimacy to the perpetration of this act which aims at completing what could never be achieved by Zionism backed by its strong accomplices. The act in itself is a denial of the peoples' aspirations and is even a denial of the national interests of those who perpetrated it. The Palestinian resistance is our collective conscience and the liberation of Palestine is the cohesive factor that links us strongly to face the common challenges, and this tragedy pricks our conscience. The destiny,strength, pride, and honor of the Arab nation are dependent on its failures and victories, and in this calamity the Arab nation must overcome the confusion of the past in order to unite around the Palestinian resistance and, therefore, it must inevitably mobilize all its forces to serve it so that the national liberation war, which remains the war of common destiny, can continue. The Foreign Ministry spokesman ended his statement by saying the Arab conscience must respond to the call of the salvation of awakening.

Amal Leader Views Lebanon Developments

LD180102 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Leader of the Amal Movement Nabih Birri held a press conference in Algiers during which he spoke about Israel's closure of access to the south [in Lebanon] in preparation for separating it from the north. He condemned Israel's shelling of Amal positions yesterday morning. He also talked about various issues pertaining to the unity of Lebanon. The conference was attended by national and international press correspondents. He reviewed all the new issues in Lebanon and the Lebanese Arab people's stand regarding these issues. He explained the criminal intentions that emerged through Israel's closure of access to the south in preparation for separating it from the north and creating sectarian ministates.

He condemned this behavior, which violates the simplest of international rules, and which is also in violation of UN Security Council resolutions and against the legitimate rights of citizens to move freely inside their own country. At the same time, he emphasized the unity of the Lebanese Arab people, who must be liberated from the Israeli occupation and who must establish a regime based on justice and equality among all citizens, and not based on sectarianism, tribalism, and war gains.

Regarding the Geneva conference, which included the leaders of Lebanon, he said that it was a reconciliation conference held for the sake of reaching reconciliation among all the sects through exchange of views and bringing them closer in order to unite Lebanon and end the Israeli occupation. He called for enabling the Palestinian people to attain their right of return and establishment of their own independent state. In reply to a question on Amal's position regarding the conflict inside Fatah, he said that it is tragic and that Israel is the only benefactor. He expressed his amazement by saying: We were hoping to learn nonsectarianism and commitment to the principle of democracy in resolving disputed issues from the Palestinians. We never expected that they would learn fratricide and sedition as a means for resolving these issues from us.

LIBYA

JANA Reacts to Ban on Flights in Chadian Airspace

LD171146 Tripoli JANA in English 0930 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Tripoli, Safar 12, Nov 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The rebel clique in Ndjamena gave itself the right to take a decision on behalf of the Chadian people and its legitimate government led by Goukouni Oueddei banning the flights of Libyan aircraft inside Chadian airspace. According to AFP, a statement was issued to this effect and was broadcast by Habre's radio yesterday.

It is obvious that it is easier for some to take decisions yet it is harder to take the responsibility and repercussions of this decision especially if those people are a bunch of thieves who based their decision on a dream which tickled their fancy. The Ndjamena thieves involved themselves too much in their dream which is based on mirage and imagination. It seems that their decision to ban the flights of Libyan planes in Chadian airspace is an expression of hostile intention accumulated by their biased devotion to the enemies of the Chadian people. The decision would have been considered seriously and a certain stand would have been taken, should it come from a legitimate sovereign state.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Departs for Three-Country Visit

AB171710 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpt] His Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, left Nouakchott this morning for Bucharest, Sofia, and Brussels where he will pay friendly visits at the invitation of His Excellency Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, His Excellency Mr Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the

State Council and president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Mr [words indistinct] and His Majesty King Baudouin I.

SUDAN

Reportage on Kidnappings of Foreign Technicians

Armed Forces Communique

JN171546 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA) — In a statement it issued today, the Sudanese People's Armed Forces' General Command stated that the People's Armed Forces are in full control of the areas where experts working in the Jonglei and Pantoi Canal project have been kidnapped, and that they have imposed a tight siege on the area where the hostages were kidnapped. In Communique No 1, the deputy commander in chief said that the People's Armed Forces will not allow the perpetrators to escape. The People's Armed Forces will also be waiting for all those who contemplate wreaking havoc with the homeland's national, strategic, and security interests. The People's Armed Forces will remain an impregnable dam in the face of the conspiracies that are concocted against Sudan's unity and sovereignty, and against its security and interests.

The communique of the People's Armed Forces' General Command pointed out the statement of the so-called Popular Liberation Army, which includes a group of saboteurs from the south, that claims responsibility for the 15 November operation. The statement said that they stormed a camp belonging to a French company operating on the Jonglei Canal project and kidnapped two Frenchmen and two Pakistanis. In Pantoi they kidnapped two British subjects working with the Chevron Company after killing their Sudanese driver. They then announced their demands, which include the French Government's recognition of their movement, and halting work at the Jonglei Canal project and the pipeline and refinery in Pantoi. They also demanded that political detainees be released, Islamic laws be abolished, and the ban on the church be lifted. If their demands are not met in 48 hours, they will kill the hostages.

The People's Armed Forces' communique pointed out that this act of sabotage is led by deserter Colonel (John Qarnaq), who moved from (Balgham 5) and (Etang) Camps in Ethiopian territory, as well as from (Sirjac) Camp, 12 km from the Sudanese borders, where the rebels are being trained and equipped by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Ethiopia, from where they proceed to carry out sabotage and plunder the property of peaceful citizens in the south.

Troops Free Hostages

NC171552 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 17 (AFP) — Sudanese Government troops today freed two British engineers taken hostage along with nine other foreign technicians after attacking a rebel camp in southern Sudan, the Armed Forces Command announced here. Earlier the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) reporting from here quoted the rebels as saying they would execute their hostages at 8 pm local time (1800 GMT) today if the government did not agree to their demands. The two Britons were freed during an attack by Sudanese soldiers on a rebel camp in the Bentui area, 800 kilometres (480 miles) from Khartoum, the Army said.

The kidnapping — of seven Frenchmen, two Pakistanis and the two Britons — on Tuesday was announced yesterday by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, who is on an official visit to France. The president told reporters in Paris that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which opposes the recent introduction of Islamic law in Sudan, was behind the kidnappings. He claimed the organisation received arms from both Ethiopia and Libya. MENA said Sudanese Vice-President 'Umar at-Tayyib had had talks on the situation in southern Sudan, which has a large Christian and [words indistinct] population, with the head of the French consortium building the Jonglei Canal, the deputy head of the Chevron Oil Company and French diplomats in Khartoum. The rebels are demanding the release of all political prisoners in Sudan and that work should stop on the Jonglei Canal irrigation project and the Bentiu oil pipeline.

2 British Hostages Released

JN171756 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 17 (SUNA) — Two British citizens among the eleven hostages kidnapped in the Bentiu area during current Nov 15 by outlaws were liberated today and brought safely into Bentiu town with a helicopter, a Military Communique No 2 announced this afternoon here. [sentence as received] The communique said heavy casulaties were inflicted on the outlaws by the Peoples' Armed Forces. It went on and announced that the Peoples' Armed Forces repelled a dawn attack by rebels in the Malwal area in the Upper Nile region today, causing great loss of life and equipment in the outlaws' ranks. The communique said the Army was still conducting cleaning operations in the area to rid it of outlaws.

Official on 'Massive Attack' on Malwal

JN171518 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA) — At a news conference he held here this afternoon, Muhammad Khujali Salihin, minister of national guidance and information, declared that the rebels carried out a criminal design this morning. At 0400 this morning, the rebels carried out a massive attack on Malwal near the Ethiopian border in the area of An-Nazir, capital of (As-Subat) Province in the Upper Nile region.

Salihin said: The valiant People's Armed Forces had prior knowledge of this criminal attack, and were completely ready. He said that the People's Armed Forces confronted and repulsed this criminal attack, inflicted heavy losses on the terrorists, repulsed them, and forced them to flee. Salihin added: This terrorist attack confirms the huge criminal design that Libya and Ethiopia have been preparing since 1981. He said that this proves that their talk about Islamic laws is merely pretext.

'Arafat Thanks Official for Sudanese Stand

JN171353 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1042 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA) — Dr Ahmad as-Sayyid Hamad, chairman of the National Council for Friendship, Solidarity, and Peace in Sudan, has received a thank you cable from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, in which he condemned the plots against the Palestinian revolution. In his cable and on behalf of the PLO Executive Committee, 'Arafat thanked Sudan for its national stands which confirm the unity of Arab destiny. He affirmed that the criminal aggression against the Palestinian revolution will not affect the Palestinian people's determination, but will be crushed by the steadfast Palestinian fighters and the support of free, honorable men in the Arab region and the world. 'Arafat said that the Syrian regime is not only supporting the dissident gang with funds, equipment, and men, but is also directly participating in the savage attacks against the Palestinian camps in Tripoli, north Lebanon, thus implementing the mission which Israel could not implement by its barbaric aggression and its siege of Beirut more than a year ago. Concluding his cable, 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinian fighters will and determination are stronger than all plots and plotters, and that the Palestinian people will continue their march toward liberation under the PLO leadership. Dr Ahmad as-Sayyid Hamad had sent a letter of solidarity to Aysir 'Arafat in which he expressed Sudan's support for the PLO and deplored the plots against the Palestinian revolution.

TUNISIA

Juan Carlos, Bourguiba Confer, Speak at Luncheon

LD180327 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The first hours of the Spanish monarch's visit to Tunisia were spent in talks between the great combatant President Habib Bourguiba and his wife and the great guest and his wife, attended by Mohamed Mzali, Habib Bourguiba Jr, and Beji Caid es-Sebsi with their wives from the Tunisian side, and Fernando Moran, minister of foreign affairs, from the Spanish side, as well as the two countries' ambassadors. On this occasion, President Bourguiba awarded King Juan Carlos I the highest degree of the Independence Order and Queen Sofia the highest degree of the Republic Order. The Spanish monarch on his part awarded the president the Highest Order of Catholic Isabella and Mrs Bourguiba with the (?woman's) Highest Order of Catholic Isabella. Presents were also exchanged between the president and his wife and the two honorable guests. After this presentation the president and his wife invited the Spanish guest and his wife to a luncheon in their honor. In his speech addressed to King Juan Carlos, the president expressed his highest appreciation of the decisive role played by the king in molding the future of that friendly country, Spain. He recalled some of his memories about Spain, where he found a refuge during the period of leading the national struggle for liberation. He emphasized the bonds that go deep in history between Tunisia and Spain, a matter which strengthens the conviction that stronger bilateral cooperation and diversification would make it possible to have the right atmosphere for the establishment of harmonious and coordinated relations between the two countries based on mutual respect and complimentary interests. President Bourguiba reviewed the various accomplishments within the framework of bilateral cooperation and concluded by talking about the cultural relations which are encouraged to expand to include the fields of scientific research and technology, and to facilitate industrial cooperation between the two countries. The president then stressed the two countries' preoccupation with the international situation in which disorder is increasing day after day and tensions and tendencies of hegemony and intolerance are reaching new heights. The great combatant expressed his highest appreciation for the courageous and honorable Spanish stand towards the Palestinian issue and called upon the countries to intensify their efforts to help end this injustice.

The Spanish monarch's speech noted that this was not his first time in Tunisia, recalling being there in 1967 when he attended the fifth Mediterranean sports festival. He then enumerated the historical stages between the two countries which contributed to the making of the mutual history of the Spanish-Tunisian and Arab peoples. King Juan Carlos said that there are in fact many bonds which unite us and therefore the fraternal friendship relations between Spain and the Arab peoples should be and shall remain a decisive factor in our policy, firm and unalterable in our diplomatic objectives. He then spoke about Spain's stand on the Middle East issue, a stand based on respect for the legitimate rights of all states of the region and on support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Talks Held

LD180331 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] At the Sa'adah Palace in Mersa this evening Tunisian-Spanish talks were held. They were chaired from the Tunisian side by Mohamed Mzali, the prime minister, and on the Spanish side by King Juan Carlos I. The talks lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes. They were attended on the Tunisian side by Habib Bourguiba Jr, special adviser to President Bourguiba; Beji Caid es-Sebsi, minister of foreign affairs; and the Tunisian ambassador to Spain; and on the Spanish side by the minister of foreign affairs and the Spanish ambassador to Tunisia.

Following the meeting Mohamed Mzali made a statement in which he answered Spanish press representatives' questions. About Spain's stand towards the Palestinian issue, and after King Juan Carlos's statement on this matter, the prime minister affirmed that Spain's stand is honorable; however, he said, the present situation is in a stalemate and the solution is in the hands of the Arabs themselves, and he stressed that Spain could not recognize Israel because this would be inconceivable. On the bilateral relations, Mohamed Mzali said they are good and making progress and that the talks between the two sides have dealt with the foundations on which these relations will be based, which the two foreign ministers will define more precisely. Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran made a statement in which he stressed that the solution of the Palestinian issue definitely depends on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and that Spain supports every initiative which makes the solution of the Palestinian issue possible.

ETHIOPIA

Voice of Broad Masses Reports TPLF Operations

EA171411 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The heroic Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] forces destroyed an enemy force stationed in the town of (Alaweha) and took control of the town in an offensive carried out on 13 November. Before this attack they attacked an enemy force stationed between Bati and Milli Provinces and took control of (Arabat) and [word indistinct]. Around (Quiha), they attacked an enemy force mobilized to harass people and forced it to retreat. In all these attacks 15 enemy soldiers were killed, 16 others wounded, and 3 Navy servicemen, 8 vehicles, and an assortment of weapons were captured.

Further Fighting

EA171358 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Our heroic people's force destroyed an enemy force stationed around [word indistinct] in an offensive carried out 13 November. In 1 hour of fierce fighting, our forces killed 19 soldiers, wounded 38 others, and 14 assorted weapons and other enemy property were captured. The remaining troops retreated in disarrary.

KENYA

Moi Comments on Tanzanian Border Reopening

EA171208 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi has appealed to people living along the Kenyan-Tanzanian border to assist their respective governments in eradicating social evils on the common border. The president said now that the border has been reopened there was an urgent need for the people living along it to curb smuggling so that trade could thrive between the two countries. President Moi was speaking at Namanga border post while traveling back to Nairobi from Arusha, Tanzania where he attended an east African heads of state summit. The president said that people living along the common border had been unable to visit one another freely for the last 6 years, and it was now up to them to guard against elements that might want to disrupt the newly acquired peace and unity. Accompanied by the vice president and minister for home affairs, Mr Mwai Kibaki, and the Tanzanian prime minister, Mr Edward Sokoine, the president pointed out to the border residents that the leaders in the east Africa region were keen on opening a new chapter in the development of their region.

Thanking President Moi for his historic visit to Tanzania and the subsequent reopening of the border, Mr Sokoine said that Tanzanians and Kenyans should heed the advice given to them by their leaders and desist from any acts that might ruin the good relations between their two governments. Mr Sokoine said that the number of law-abiding people outnumbered those who did not believe in the rule of law, and it would not be difficult for neighboring countries to apprehend the few if wananchi cooperated with their respective governments.

At Kajido, President Moi hinted to students that he might soon abolish any official documents which required people to state which location or tribe they came from.

The three presidents instructed their ministers to meet and finalize the agreement for the division of the assets and liabilities of the former East African Community as soon as possible and in any case not later than 31 March 1984.

UGANDA

Obote Returns From Arusha, Makes Statement

EA171627 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] President Obote has returned home from a very successful meeting of east African heads of state on the distribution of assets and liabilities of the defunct East African Community in Arusha. Dr Obote was welcomed at Entebbe Airport by Vice President Paulo Muwanga, Prime Minister Otema Alimadi, ministers, the chief of staff, Major General Oyite Ojok, and other senior governent and party officials.

The president told a press conference that the meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship, brotherhood, and understanding, and political good will reflecting the industrial and traditional ties between the peoples of east Africa. He however emphasized that it is not the reflections of the past but the intentions of the future of east Africa. He declined to comment on future cooperation until he has briefed the cabinet.

In the percentage of division of assets President Obote informed journalists that in Uganda all assets (?start low), and that was why Uganda got 26 percent, as compared to Kenya with 42 percent, and Tanzania with 32 percent. This, he said, explains the compensation of $191,136,000 payable to Uganda by Kenya and Tanzania, and the 7 percent interest that will come into effect from the date of the signing of the agreement whose latest date should be 31 March 1984. The president explained at length the mode of payment of the $191,136,000 dollars: the intentions of a joint administration of the East African Interuniversity Committee, Soroti Flying School, and the East African Development Bank all in Uganda, the East and Southern Africa Management Training Institute in Arusha, and the East African Community Library Services in Nairobi.

Welcoming the president back home, Vice President Paulo Muwanga said the meeting was a turning point in east African regional cooperation.

GABON

Joint Congolese Commission Issues Communique

AB171925 Dakar PANA in French 1325 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Libreville, 17 Nov (AGP-GABON/PANA) — The fourth session of the Congolese-Gabonese joint cooperation commission meeting ended on Wednesday in Libreville. According to official sources in Libreville, experts of both countries, led on the Congolese side by Aime-Emmanuel Yoka, minister delegate in charge of cooperation, and on the Gabonese side by Martin Bongo, minister of state and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, discussed for over 40 hours issues related to transportation, culture, posts and telecommunications, and education in particular.

The final communique issued at the end of this meeting emphasized the necessity underlined by the two parties to develop all kinds of relations between countries in the Southern Hemisphere in the face of the "selfishness" of affluent nations. Expressing satisfaction with the signing in Libreville last month of the treaty instituting the Economic Community of Central African States, the two delegations reasserted their determination to pursue their efforts toward achieving the "intensification and diversification" of their exchange in a spirit of "active solidarity."

The same communique, which also said that the two parties were pleased with the creation in Libreville of an International Center for Bantu Civilization, which they called "a precious tool for working and for drawing people of the area together," stated in conclusion that ad hoc committees had been created for a thorough examination of specific issues and for the rapid implementation of the high commission's recommendations that have not yet been implemented.

The leader of the Congolese delegation, who was received on Tuesday by the Gabonese head of state, visited Port-Gentil, in the central-west region of the country and Gabon's economic capital, and also visited Gabonese industrial sites before returning to his country on Wednesday.

ZAIRE

Five UDPS Founders Reported Kidnapped 13 Nov

AB171152 Paris AFP in French 0844 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Brussels, 17 Nov (AFP) — Five out of 13 former Zairian parliamentarians and members of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress [UDPS] were kidnapped on Sunday by the Zairian Army, Professor Dikonda wa Lumanyisha, the group's spokesman who is in exile in Brussels, said yesterday.

The 13 parliamentarians, who were accused of subversion, were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in July 1982 by the State Security Court for plotting against the state. They were arrested for having created the UDPS and have been under house arrest since their condemnation. According to Prof Dikonda, the five kidnapped UDPS members are Kibassa Maliba, a former member of the ruling MPR Central Committee; Ngalula Mpandajila; Tsisekedi wa Mulumba; Lusanga Ngiel; and Makanda Mpinga.

The UDPS spokesman in Brussels has appealed to all governments that support President Mobutu's regime as well as all international organizations for the defense of human rights to do everything possible so that they can be freed and also see to their security.

President Mobutu, Professor Dikonda stressed, wants to paralyze the remarkable growth of the UDPS in Zaire and the strike actions which have been going on despite the strong pressure being exerted on the strikers.

GHANA

Rawlings Calls for Cooperation With Saudi Arabia

AB170815 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, said yesterday that the human conflicts which had generated instability in certain sections of the society are steadily giving way to a healthier atmosphere that is progressively promoting productivity in all sectors of the economy. He therefore assured friendly countries which believe in Ghana's quest for social justice and economic progress that any support they provided would be meaningfully harnessed. Flight Lt Rawlings was speaking to the Saudi Arabia charge d'affaires in Ghana, Mr Ammuar 'Abd al-Fatah 'Abd Abul, when he paid a courtesy call on him at the Castle, Osu.

Chairman Rawlings called for the opening up of more areas for positive cooperation between Ghana and Saudi Arabia. To this realization, a ministerial delegation will visit Saudi Arabia early next month to discuss among other things issues of bilateral assistance in the fields of mining, construction, fuel,and power. On the persistent Arab-Israeli conflict, the PNDC chairman expressed concern about the existence of factions within the Arab front and said the disunity was a source of disappointment among the non-oil producing African countries that continue to support the Arab cause. He therefore urged Arab nations to come together to consolidate their power. Replying, Mr 'Abd Abul observed that the two countries have maintained fruitful relations since 1957 and expressed the hope that this relationship would be even more strengthened. He observed that by contrast Ghana had more possible conditions for development, apart from being peaceful, than most Third World nations. Present at the meeting were the secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, and the interior, Mr Kofi Djin.

Rawlings Interviewed by RABOTNICHESKO DELO

AU171231 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 14 Nov 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] Captain [title as published] Jerry Rawlings, chairman of Ghana's Provisional National Defense Council, was kind enough to grant *RABOTNICHESKO DELO* an interview, which was conducted by Atanas Mitev, BTA special correspondent.

[Mitev] It is known that Ghana is experiencing economic difficulties. However, the country and the people, under the leadership of the Provisional National Defense Council, have successfully begun to overcome them. How did you achieve this? Could you outline Ghana's future economic development?

[Rawlings] We still have much work to do before we can say that we have overcome our economic difficulties. We have, however, already constructed the basis of our economic restoration and outlined the road that will eventually lead us out of our present difficulties.

First of all we have succeeded in curbing the squandering. We have created citizens' committees and public courts that are responsible for dealing with the unfair distribution and use of public funds, with nonpayment of taxes, and with other economic crimes.

At the end of 1982 we adopted a Program on Economic Restoration, according to which we adopted this year a tight but realistic budget. These and some other measures restored international confidence in the management of Ghana's financial affairs, and allowed us to obtain loans, with which we will begin to restore our economic capacities, which were brought to almost total idleness by the previous governments. These measures still have not caused a substantial improvement in people's lives because we have encountered unexpected difficulties — this year's drought, the return of more than 1 million Ghanaians from Nigeria, a shortage of fuel caused by an accident in one of our oil processing plants, and so forth. Our first concern now is to ensure as much as possible self-production of foodstuffs, and to increase the production of raw materials and other materials for our food industry. This year's budget envisages bonuses for increased exports, which will increase our reserves of foreign currency.

In short, despite the fact that the country is experiencing difficulties, its citizens are confident about the possibility of constructing a stable economic system.

[Mitev] Ghana's revolution has enemies who are trying to restore their lost positions. Who are they and whom are they trying to utilize in their attempts to topple the government?

[Rawlings] Before the revolution our country's economy was destroyed by a privileged class, at the expense of the peasants and workers. The representatives of this class — big businessmen, some highly paid specialists, politicians, and former high government officials — are now seeing how their privileges are quickly disappearing. Of course, many of them are dissatisfied and are taking part in attempts to topple the Government of the Provisional National Defense Council. Some fled across the border and started acting as a bridge between their collaborators in Ghana and foreign forces acting against the new government. In addition there are many low-ranking officials, merchants, and others, who are so used to making profits through cheating, corruption, and the black market that for them this is a way of life. They also cannot reconcile themselves to the fact that they can no longer make profits as they used to.

[Mitev] How do you defend Ghana's revolution? Who is supporting you?

[Rawlings] There are several aspects of the revolution's defense. For this purpose it is very important to create an organizational structure. The People's Defense Committees that we are founding in the settlements, the districts, and the regions, as well as on an all-state basis, are the basis of this structure. And if the new government is to be defended by force, then the people must be properly trained to do it. More and more workers, members of the people's units, and other citizens are undergoing military training. Another aspect encompasses the struggle against ignorance and illiteracy. Only people unburdened by

prejudices can embrace the revolution's ideas. Therefore suitable education, training of cadres, and work among the masses to ensure they correctly understand the revolutionary process are some of the most important ways of defending the revolution. As to the question of who is supporting the revolution — these are first of all civilians and military who believe in the principles of social justice and removing oppression, and have a sense of responsibility while managing the affairs of state. There are also others, who for many years had formed their understanding under the influence of social injustice. They would probably adopt our principles somewhat more slowly, but I am convinced that they will join our struggle.

[Mitev] The mass media in many countries, including in the United States, published materials on the role of the CIA in the unsuccessful putsch of 19 June 1983. What can you say on this matter?

[Rawlings] There is no doubt that some Western countries would like to see a different government in Ghana. There is also no doubt that the CIA is interfering in our domestic affairs. The U.S. Administration denies any such activities, but this contradicts the U.S. Congress investigation into the CIA's subversive activity, as well as the publications of former CIA agents, which have revealed some aspects of the CIA's activity.

[Mitev] What is the most characteristic line of Ghana's foreign policy?

[Rawlings] In our foreign policy we pay most attention to the developing countries, which together with us are conducting a struggle in the name of social justice. In addition to our fraternal relations with the countries that share our principles and ideas, we, as a nonaligned country, greet the development of relations with any country that respects our right to independently construct our future. Of course, we can have no friendly relations with countries in which there is exploitation. Our gates are open to all other countries.

[Mitev] How do you evaluate the relations between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Ghana?

[Rawlings] Ghana and Bulgaria alike have experienced the yoke of social injustice and underdevelopment. Bulgaria has overcome these evils before Ghana, and we can learn much from its successes. Therefore we highly value the assistance rendered by your country in many areas, such as the training of specialists.

GUINEA

President Sekou Toure Addresses Party Congress

AB171525 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0915 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Address by President Sekou Toure to the opening session of the 12th Congress of the Guinean Democratic Party in Conakry on 16 November — recorded; intercepted in progress]

[Excerpts] Foreign policy: The ideology and the political, economic, and sociocultural options underlying all the internal and external activities of the Guinean people are clearly reflected in the diplomatic activities of the Guinean Government. There is not and there cannot exist any contradiction between the fundamental objectives of the Guinean revolution and the objectives assigned to the Guinean Government's diplomatic activities. It is therefore easy to understand the dialectic liaison between the internal and foreign policies of the Republic of Guinea. In other words, we can affirm that Guinea's foreign policy is a reflection of its internal policy.

By nature, the revolution is mainly aggressive and fundamentally undemocratic. [as heard] This means that in order to be a true reflection of the deep aspirations of the Guinean people engaged in the construction of a new society freed from all defects and shortcomings, our diplomacy must clearly assume an aggressive attitude characterized by objectivity and a sense of reality leading to the establishment of equitable relations between the Guinean state and all the other states of the world. Right from our people's independence, our party introduced an active diplomacy in relation to the major problems of our time. During all the speeches made by our leaders at the United Nations and the main international organizations, our country's views have always been loudly and clearly proclaimed, whether the problems discussed concerned war and peace in the world, peaceful coexistence between states with different political and social systems, the division of the world into two antagonistic blocs with all the evil consequences resulting from this division which creates and maintains tensions in the life of the international community, the frantic arms race and hegemony, the present economic crisis, the relations between the industrialized nations and the developing countries, or the freedom of the still oppressed peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

We must never forget that our continent, Africa, is considerably backward as far as the conquest of science and technology is concerned and that this has resulted in the underdevelopment or nondevelopment of its natural resources, its social and human capabilities, and its economic and financial resources. It is imperative for the African states to ensure the solid organization and constant consolidation of their unity of action and solidarity in all fields in order to pool their physical, intellectual, and moral capabilities as well as their material resources in the interest of their collective and total emancipation. It was this need that compelled the African peoples to create the OAU on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa and to progressively strengthen the common bases of their development actions. For the past 20 years, the OAU has remained the most representative organ of Africa's personality and identity and the most effective weapon for the defense of the continent's interests.

Our revolution has never been isolated. It has always been supported by many states and international organizations as well as by all honest people in the world regardless of political and ideological differences. Our revolution has been able to foil all isolation attempts and economic blockades aimed at overthrowing our regime mainly because our foreign policy is based on just and sacred principles, especially on nonalignment of the blocs and their spheres of influence; unconditional support for all peoples struggling for self-determination, the conquest of their independence, and the full exercise of their sovereignty; noninterference in the internal affairs of other states; cooperation and

friendship with all peoples to ensure the advent of a just and equitable international economic order.

The soundness of this political orientation has been confirmed by the numerous state, friendly, and working visits we made to various countries in Asia, America, Europe, and particularly Africa. The following statistical indications will convince the observer of the magnitude of this diplomatic offensive: In 1979, we visited 20 countries in Africa, five in America, two in Asia, five Arab countries, and four European countries. In 1980, we visited 10 African countries, six Asian countries, one American country, two European countries, and two Arab countries. In 1981, we visited 10 African countries, three Asian countries, one European country, and five Arab countries. In 1982, we visited 15 African countries, one Asian country, two American countries, four European countries, and four Arab countries, and in 1983, we visited 12 Arican countries, one Asian country, one European country, and one Arab country. On the other hand, Guinea received the visits of many foreign heads of state during the same period. [applause]

Cooperation: The external action of the Republic of Guinea is a prolongation of its internal activities. Its main objective is the constant development and improvement of the Guinean regime. It is also the preservation and development of the independence, sovereignty, and security of our people and all their achievements, as well as the creation, maintenance, and strengthening of friendship with all the peoples of the world through cooperation in mutual understanding, equality, respect of institutions, and the safeguarding of the material and moral well-being of the working masses. By their nature, therefore, our foreign relations constitute the faithful prolongation of the relations of freedom, equality, and democracy which the party has established among all its militants without any racial or religious distinction.

Our country's foreign policy is based on Guinea's interests which must be in perfect communion and absolute conformity with the interests of Africa. Our foreign policy is committed and positive: committed because we take interest in all the phenomena surrounding us and having a direct or indirect effect on the freedom of people, on democracy, and world peace; it is positive because we never determine our position toward any state in a negative manner. Our policy is made of the adoption of truthful positions [words indistinct] in conformity with our aspirations for progress, for better relations among peoples, and for a lasting peace.

The greatness of a people is not measured against their material wealth, no matter how immense it may be, or the extent of their territory, or the size of their population but exclusively against the importance and value of their contribution to the common universal heritage. [applause] Since the greatness of a people is the result of the importance of their international prestige — based not on military, financial, or economic power but on moral and spiritual influence — it must necessarily depend on the quality of the relations of cooperation this people can establish with all other people. Therefore, we cannot consider international cooperation as economic relations between two opposing poles, one of which belongs to a technically developed world selling its surplus products while the other belongs to an insufficiently equipped world which is both a supplier of raw materials and a buyer of manufactured products. Rather, we consider it a historic need whose understanding and voluntary acceptance alone can render convergent and interdependent the presently divergent and antagonistic interests. Cooperation cannot be an illusory association between the rich and the poor based on the questionable concept of charity without any lasting effects. We want to have loyal cooperation with all countries and peoples. This is the basis of our foreign policy. For this cooperation to last, these relations must be based on equality, absolute respect for sovereignty, and reciprocal advantages, and they must never contradict Africa's superior interests.

From African unity to a United States of Africa: Article 89 of our Constitution stipulates that the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea can conclude with one or several African States agreements of association or community providing for the partial or total surrender of sovereignty in order to realize the United States of Africa. [applause] No other African state has ever been more favorable to the achievement of the supreme desire of the African peoples for unity in order to reaffirm their personality.

When our people raise their voice, when our great party vigorously denounces — as it has been doing for more than 25 years now — those who enslaved the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, especially imperialism and neocolonialism, large sections of public opinion in some Western countries express their astonishment. They forget or pretend to forget that the African people — to mention them alone — experienced a phenomenon which no other people of any other continent has ever experienced in history: the slave trade.

Our (?neutrality) does not mean noncommitment or indifference because we are neither neutral nor indifferent as far as good and evil are concerned. We have chosen between colonization and national independence; we have chosen between economic vassalization of nations and the free and full enjoyment of the fruits of productive efforts. We have chosen to fully assume our responsibilities as a sovereign people engaged in productive effort in order to control their development on the basis of an internal and external stability.

We have chosen revolution which destroys the causes of evil, that is, all forms of man's exploitation and oppression by man and the exploitation and oppression of the masses by an idle and exploiting class. We have chosen socialist revolution which liberates men and masses by socializing the individual and humanizing the society. [applause]

GUINEA-BISSAU

Prime Minister's Upcoming Visits Reported

AB171106 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Bissau, Nov 17 (AFP) — Guinea-Bissau Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria will visit three Scandinavian countries later this month to discuss aid projects. He will be in Sweden from November 21 to 25, Finland from November 26 to 28, and Denmark from November 29 to December 3.

LIBERIA

Doe Explains Economic Situation to Soldiers

AB172140 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The head of state, who is chairman of the ruling People's Redemption Council [PRC], Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, today explained to the soldiers the present state of the Liberian economy. He said most economic decisions taken by the PRC government were unprecedented in the history of Liberia. The head of state made the statement when he visisted the First Infantry Battalion in Schiefflin. He attributed the decline in the economy to worldwide recession, payment of huge debts incurred by past governments, and the bankrupt state of the country at the inception of the PRC government. Head of state Doe said it was the responsibility of every Liberian, whether civilian or soldier, to make sacrifices and maximum efforts to ensure the recovery of the Liberian economy.

The head of state, however, commended the members of the First Infantry Battalion for the high level of responsibility they have have continued to exhibit, but he warned them against absence without leave in the discharge of their duties. The head of state told the soldiers that plans were underway for the construction of a high school in Camp Schiefflin to allow soldiers residing there to further their edcuation.

Minister Says Offshore Oil Exploration Has Begun

AB180850 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] The minister of lands, mines, and energy, Dr Foday Kromah, has said that the first series of the exploration for hydrocarbons in Liberia's offshore water has begun. He said the first in the series is presently being carried out in Grand Cape Mount County by OMACO Liberia Exploration Company. Minister Kromah made the disclosure yesterday when the head of state, Commander in Chief Doe, paid his first visit to the minister of lands, mines, and energy.

NIGERIA

Further on Visit of Brazilian President

Honored With Banquet

AB170935 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] President Shehu Shagari says no sacrifice will be too great to secure the freedom of blacks in racist South Africa. The president stated this in Lagos at a banquet in honor of the visiting Brazilian president, Joao Baptista Figueiredo. He pointed out that the cause of liberation in South Africa was just and appealed to Brazil to give its support to the fight against apartheid. He noted that Namibia's independence had been delayed because of the unwillingness of Western powers to use their economic and political strength to influence South Africa to implement the UN resolution on the independence of Namibia. The president remarked that the incursions into Angola from Namibia as well as Mozambique by the racist troops was evidence of the increased intrasigence of the Pretoria regime.

On international issues, the president spoke of the need for a new international order consistent with the aspiration for peace, security, and development among nations. President Shagari expressed the hope that the bond of friendship between Nigeria and Brazil will be strengthened to benefit both countries. Yesterday President Baptista Figueiredo laid a wreath at the Tafawa Balewa Cenotaph and also visited the national museum. A communique is to be issued today between both countries before the visiting president leaves for home.

No Arms Trade Agreement

AB170948 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Lagos, Nov 17 (AFP) — Brazil and Nigeria have failed to arrange an arms-for-oil barter agreement, Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernardo Pericas said here last night. Commenting at the end of the second day of Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo's visit to Nigeria at the start of an African tour, Mr Pericas said that such a deal would infringe the regulations of both the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) and the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC), of which Nigeria is a member. Brazil, which has sold combat aircraft and weapons to several West African countries, would be training Nigerian soldiers, but no other military agreement was envisaged, the spokesman said. Brazil planned to step up its purchases of Nigerian oil from the current 10,000 barrels a day, Mr Pericas said, without giving figures, but he noted that most of Brazil's refining capacity concentrated on medium-grade crude, and could not handle the light Nigerian product. Mr Pericas said the talks between the two sides had covered international issues, economic cooperation, notably between banks, agriculture and defense.

Communique Issued on Visit

AB171319 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Nigeria and Brazil today in Lagos signed cooperation agreements on trade and agriculture. The agreements were the outcome of 2 days of talks between delegations of both countries led by President Shehu Shagari and his Brazilian counterpart Mr Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo. In a joint communique signed by the two leaders today both nations stressed the need to take concerted measure to fully expand their cooperation based on the interests and needs of their peoples. The two sides expressed keen interest in broadening and diversifying the existing trade, economic and technical links on a long-term basis.

They expressed their readiness to intensify cooperation particularly in agriculture and agro-allied projects, industry, oil technology, telecommunications, hotel industry, transport and aviation. To this end, President Shehu Shagari and his Brazilian counterpart agreed to promote efforts aimed at joint ventures, cooperation programs in research and development as well as

scientific and technological cooperation including the transfer of technology. They acknowledged the initialing of the new trade agreement between the two countries and stressed the need for developing public and private sector organizations of both nations to accelerate the present negotiations being held in the areas of agriculture, transportation, telecommunications, petrochemical and consumer goods.

The two presidents underlined the need for immediate action to enable the trade relations between both countries to return a healthy balance at the level attained in 1981. They also decided to conclude as soon as possible a protocol for the transfer of technology and training of personnel in the areas of hydroelectric power, solar energy, minerals, coal, uranium, and gold.

More on Communique

AB172030 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo today concluded his 3-day state visit to Nigeria. Before leaving Lagos, the Brazilian leader and his Nigerian counterpart, President Shehu Shagari, signed a joint communique on the outcome of the talks between them. State House correspondent Ebun Eboige has the details:

[Correspondent report] Before the signing of the communique, Nigeria and Brazil initialed two agreements on trade and agriculture. The signing of the accord was the major highlight of the outcome of the 2-days of talks between the delegations of both nations led by their respective presidents.

The prospects of commercial, economic, and technical cooperation between the two countries were closely examined and both presidents underlined the need for immediate action to enable the trade relations between them to return to a healthy balance at the level attained in 1981. Useful talks were also conducted between the two delegations with a view to promote and widen scientific, economic, and technical cooperation in the field of civil aviation. Negotiations are expected to be continued through diplomatic channels to pave the way for the future signing of the present agreement and protocol at the next sitting of the joint coordination committee which will be held in Brazil early next year.

Presidents Shehu Shagari and Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo also decided to sign as soon as possible the protocol aimed at the transfer of technology and exchange of personnel in the areas of hydro-electric power and solar energy, mineral coal, uranium, and gold.

Discussions also centered on the possibility of bilateral military cooperation and the two leaders agreed on the desirability of furthering that cooperation which could cover a wide range of subjects. On international issues, both sides expressed concern over the deterioration of the international situation and the serious threat to world peace and security. They noted that the underlying causes for this state of affairs could be attributed to the conflict of interests, rivalry between the great power blocks, and the consequential arms race, as well as interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The two delegations stressed the need for urgent action by the international community to eliminate the causes of the current negative developments in order to effectively deal with international political and economic problems. They expressed the necessity to intensify negotiations to achieve the reduction in nuclear armament under protective international control and emphasized the importance of the transfer of some of the expenses now allocated to armament to areas of economic and social development, especially in the developing countries.

On southern Africa, the two leaders strongly condemned the illegal occupation of Namibia by racist South Africa and reiterated their support for the Namibian peoples to their just struggle for total independence under the leadership of SWAPO. They further condemned apartheid and agreed that recent constitutional referendums in the racist enclave did not constitute any progress towards abolishing the system. On Chad, both presidents stated that only a political solution to the country's long standing problems [words indistinct] and this should be on the basis of the decisions of the OAU which fully respected the right of Chadians to order their own affairs. [end recording]

Communique Notes Business Cooperation

AB172145 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The central banks of Nigeria and Brazil are to carry out in-depth study and make recommendations on the establishment of reciprocal lines of credits. The study is also aimed at creating a system for the periodic settlement of balances from direct productions between the two countries. This is contained in a joint communique issued in Lagos today on the 2 days of talks between President Shehu Shagari and his Brazilian counterpart, Mr Joao Baptista Figueiredo. Within the next 3 months, the communique added, officials of the two central banks will meet in Brazil to initiate moves towards the early implementation of the decision. President Shagari and the Brazilian leader expressed delight at the discussions between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and Petrobraz of Brazil, on the possibility of buying Nigerian crude. Both presidents expressed keen interest in broadening and diversifying the existing trade, economic and technical links on a long-term basis. Already, Nigeria and Brazil have initialed cooperation agreements on agriculture and trade. President Figueiredo has since left for home.

Former Head of State Gowon To Visit Next Month

AB171705 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Nigeria's former head of state, Mr Yakubu Gowon, will be in the country next month. Announcing this at a press luncheon today, Mr Amachree, who is heading a committee on the issue, stressed that the month of December will see Mr Gowon touring all parts of the country. Mr Amachree, replying to a series of questions, categorically stated that Mr Yakubu Gowon will not be interested in politics come 1987. The Committee of Friends has members from all parts of the country.

Seven Northern States Agree on Drought Measures

AB170745 Lagos NAN in English 0732 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Kaduna, Nov 16 (NAN) — Seven of the 10 governors of the northern states have agreed to distribute relief materials to the drought affected areas of their states in such a way that people at the grassroots would benefit from the exercise. In a statement today, the press secretary to the Kaduna governor, Alhaji Sanni Bueogo, (?said that) after the governors meeting at Kaduna last weekend, they recommended that each state should mobilize available resources to purchase grains and water tankers for drought victims. The two-day meeting, according to the press secretary, was attended by the governors of Kaduna, Baouchi, Borno, Gongola, Sokoto, Niger,and Benue. The governors appealed to President Shehu Shagari to give immediate aid to the states affected by drought. They also appealed to traditional rulers not to allow their people to migrate to other areas because all arrangements were being made to alleviate their suffering. The governors also recommended that students of Plateau origin should be expelled from Kaduna Polytechnic if within three months the state government fails to meet its financial obligation to the institution.

Commentary on Peace Initiative on Chad

AB171043 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] For over a decade now the crisis in Chad has defied all solutions. This is principally because of constant attempts by one faction or another to impose its will on the country. In this situation, national reconciliation has been made impossible whereas solutions to the Chadian problems depend on such reconciliation.

In demonstration of its continued concern for normalcy in Chad, Nigeria has proposed the setting up of an observer team or a peace-keeping force in Chad under the aegis of the United Nations. At the same time, arrangements should be made for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of foreign troops. President Shehu Shagari, who announced Nigeria's new initiative, said he had already contacted OAU leaders on the need for a roundtable conference on Chad. Nigeria has maintained all along that peace cannot be restored in Chad through the use of force by any one of the factions concerned. Rather, it believes that peace can be achieved through dialogue, reconciliation, resettlement, and rehabilitation in a spirit of trust and confidence among the parties.

In keeping with its conviction, Nigeria from 1978 sponsored a series of conferences both in Chad and in Nigeria. The negotiations ended in the Lagos accord which provided for an all-party government in the strife-torn republic. Unfortunately, that accord under which a national government came into being was broken. Since then, peace has been eluding Chad. It is recognized that one of main factors working against restoration of the normalcy is outside interference. That is why Nigeria's new initiative puts its emphasis on the withdrawal of all foreign troops in Chad, the holding of a roundtable conference by the Chadians themselves. With the possibility of the road being open again for negotiations, Nigeria and indeed all Africa expect full cooperation from all parties concerned so that lasting peace can be attained in Chad.

SENEGAL

Brazilian President Arrives in Dakar 17 Nov

AB180840 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Excerpt] Late this afternoon the head of state went to the airport to welcome Brazilian President Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo, who arrived in Dakar at 1800 for an official working visit to Senegal. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro. The Brazilian delegation was received at the airport by President Abdou Diouf, members of government, the diplomatic corps, the speaker and assemblymen, the chairman of the Economic and Social Council, and several religious and traditional leaders and Army officers.

USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation Arrives 17 Nov

AB181045 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] A delegation of Soviet parliamentarians arrived in Dakar this afternoon at the invitation of their Senegalese counterparts. The Soviet delegation was led by the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Kirgiz Soviet Socialist Republic [name not given]. The delegation was received on arrival at the airport by Deputy Speaker Mamou Ousmane Ba, who was leading a delegation of Senegalese parliamentarians, and by the Soviet ambassador. The leader of the Soviet delegation told our reporter Abdoulaye Abo the purpose of the visit to Senegal.

[Begin recording, in Russian fading into French translation] [Deputy chairman] First of all, I would like to thank the Senegalese National Assembly for inviting us to visit Senegal. This official visit is both pleasant and very useful. We will first acquaint ourselves with the activities of the Senegalese National Assembly. We will also exchange views on the current international issues and brief the Senegalese parliamentarians on the functioning and the activities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

[Abo] Mr Deputy Chairman, doesn't the visit have a special aspect as you will be received by President Abdou Diouf?

[Deputy chairman] Of course. This is a special visit because it is an official delegation of the USSR Soviet Supreme which is visiting Senegal at the invitation of the Senegalese National Assembly. This will afford us a good opportunity to hold talks with President Abdou Diouf and our colleagues of the National Assembly on the current international problems. [end recording] Tomorrow the program includes a courtesy call to the speaker at 0930, a working session with the members of the Foreign Affairs Commission, and finally an audience with President Abdou Diouf at 1600. The Soviet delegation will be in our country until 23 November.

UPPER VOLTA

Compaore Comments on Political Detainees

AB171440 Paris AFP in French 1351 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Niamey, 17 Nov (AFP) — Captain Blaise Compaore, Upper Voltan minister of state at the presidency, arrived Wednesday night in Niger for a short visit before undertaking a tour of several central African countries, it was officially announced. Captain Compaore, who is expected to leave Niameyon Thursday afternoon for Congo, Angola, Gabon, and Cameroon, held talks on Wednesday evening with General Seyni Kountche, the head of state of Niger, to whom he reaffirmed "the Upper Voltan people's sentiments of friendship and solidarity towards the people of Niger." The Upper Voltan minister, considered as the number two man of the revolutionary regime which was established after the 4 August revolution, also mentioned the arrest of about 15 Upper Voltan politicians during a press conference. These arrested include two former heads of state, Maurice Yameogo (1958-1966), and Saye Zerbo (1980-1982).

He indicated that the National Council of the Revolution (CNR), had to cut the "relations they maintained (by putting them under house arrest) with the external enemies of the revolution who plot against the people of Upper Volta." "We do not want to begin by using revolutionary violence, but it was our duty to ensure the security of the Upper Voltan people and the state," he stated.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos To Convene People's Assembly

MB180825 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the People's Assembly, has called for the seventh ordinary session of the supreme organ of state power in Angola to be held in Luanda 16-19 December. The People's Assembly will discuss the country's present political and military situation and will also deal with documents related to the draft law on nationality, national planning, and the state general budget for next year. The People's Assembly will also deal with documents related to the adherence of the People's Republic of Angola to a number of international conventions, as well as review documents that were prepared during the previous session, and will elect the coordinator [words indistinct] of Luanda deputies and the coordinator for the commission of construction, housing, transportation, and communications. The seventh session of the People's Assembly will also ratify documents already approved by its standing commission on the regional military councils, Angola National Bank and its involvement with the state central administration organs, and regulations related to the flow of foreigners.

MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Minister Outlines Diplomatic Goals

MB180730 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Last Saturday in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano gave an important interview to the national radio of Angola. We now broadcast the most important aspects of this interview: At the outset, the Mozambique minister spoke briefly about the diplomatic campaign since the independence of Mozambique until now — a period which, according to the minister, has been characterized by the opening of more diplomatic missions, particularly in African countries and, most particularly, in southern African countries. Elsewhere during the interview, Joaquim Chissano told the Angolan journalist that the West and the United States now had a better understanding of the People's Republic of Mozambique's philosophy of cooperation and that during this period our country's diplomatic campaign was specifically directed toward the countries of Western Europe, the North American countries, and Asia, inasmuch as our relations with Africa and socialist countries have been exemplary and sound for a long period now.

[Begin recording] What we did over these 8 years can be seen from many angles. The successes are considerable, but that is not enough, because we know we still have a lot of work to do. That is why we have now launched a campaign — I should say, a greater effort — to ensure the establishment of more Mozambique missions in various countries — first of all, in African countries. We have now almost completed the establishment of missions in the frontline states and in the member-countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. However, we still do not have a permanent representative in Angola, nor does Angola have a representative in our country. Our contacts are very easy and we have good relations despite this, but we hope to reach that goal sometime. We have given priority to places where we must give major explanations regarding the state of our various political, economic, and social relations. I think that the more efforts we place in the diplomatic field, the more success we shall have. [end recording]

Cooperation Discussed With FRG Delegation

MB180744 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Delegations from Mozambique and the Federal Republic of Germany began talks in Maputo today with the aim of implementing agreements signed by the two governments. The envisaged areas of cooperation include ports and railways, posts and telecommunications, and road transportation. A source from the national planning commission pointed out that cooperation in the field of health would also be examined, as well as a technical cooperation project by FRG foreign aid workers sent to Mozambique.

The FRG delegation, led by (Rainer Berth Haith), the head of the southern African division in the Ministry of Economic Cooperation, was received this morning by Antonio Sumbane, the state secretary for international cooperation. The FRG ambassador to Mozambique was also present at the meeting. The projects now being examined were agreed upon by the Governments of Mozambique and the FRG during the visit made by Minister Alcantara Santos to the FRG in October last year.

Talks Held on Portuguese Aid in Dam Project

MB171230 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Antonio Branco, minister of industry and energy, gave a reception for Antonio de Almeida, Portuguese secretary of state for the treasury, in Maputo last night. Since Monday Antonio de Almeida has been discussing matters related to the Cahora Bassa project. In his toast, Minister Antonio Branco said that the project can set an example of cooperation in the southern part of Africa and the world in the struggle being waged against underdevelopment.

In reply, Dr Antonio de Almeida said that cooperation between the two countries must not follow mercantilistic models. He expressed the wish to see Mozambique as a strong partner in the trade exchanges between the two countries. The Portuguese secretary of state for the treasury referred to the diplomatic involvement of his government in transforming southern Africa into a region of peace and development.

The second joint meeting between Mozambique and Portugal on the Cahora Bassa Dam project is expected to end its sessions this afternoon. Behind the scene reports say the outcome of the talks will be positive.

Spanish Socialists Repudiate Linkage for Namibia

MB171314 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] repudiates attempts to link Namibian independence with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola, as urged by South Africa and the United States. This stand was revealed in Maputo last night by (Enrique Mujica Aizog), who headed a delegation of that party to 3 days of talks with the Frelimo Party. The talks ended yesterday. The visitors were received in audience yesterday afternoon by Marshal Samora Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party. According to the head of the Spanish delegation, the visit to southern Africa has enabled the PSOE to hold direct talks with the MPLA-Labor Party, SWAPO, and the Frelimo Party for the first time. During the talks, both in Angola and Mozambique, a consensus was reached on the policy for dealing with southern Africa, in addition to an agreement on the question of bilateral cooperation.

Resistance Leader Cited on Military Situation

MB171220 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The secretary general of the Mozambique Resistance Movement, Renamo, Mr Evo Fernandes, says the movement will be in a position to isolate the capital, Maputo, next year. Speaking in Lisbon he said that the Mozambique Government forces were so weakened that they were limited to defending Maputo and other major cities and towns.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

MB171845 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1843 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Nov 17, SAPA — A cabinet reshuffle was announced by the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha tonight. Addressing a meeting of the Johannesburg Afrikaanse Sakekamer at the Rand Afrikaans University, Mr Botha referred to "disappointments" in government ranks in recent days — the resignation of Mr Fanie Botha. "But we can't sit on the ashheap and mourn," he said.

Mr Pietie Du Plessis, presently minister of energy and mineral affairs, would replace Mr [Fanie] Botha as minister of manpower, the prime minister said. The state president had also approved a recommendation that Mr du Plessis be replaced by Mr Danie Steyn, presently minister of education and training, which portfolio in turn would go to Mr Barend du Plessis, at present deputy minister of foreign affairs and information. Mr Louis Nel, presently minister of development and land affairs, would take over as deputy minister of foreign affairs and information and his present portfolio would be taken over by Mr Ben Wilkens, MP for Ventersdorp.

Mr Botha said the appointments of Mr Pietie du Plessis and Mr Danie Steyn would take effect on November 21 and the others would be sworn in on November 23. "The implementation of the new constitutional dispensation in 1984 will inevitably lead to further adjustments which will in due course receive the necessary attention," the prime minister said, predicting further cabinet changes in 1984. Every problem actually presented an opportunity to advance, Mr Botha said. The Afrikaaner people had proved particularly adaptable and had reached the point where they could fearlessly face up to the demands of the times. He called for team-work in the business and private sectors so that the country's difficult times could be overcome and great things could be achieved.

CP To Join Chamber, Continue Opposition

MB170853 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The leader of the Conservative Party [CP], Dr Treurnicht, says his party can win more seats in a next election than forecast by statisticians, provided the conservative vote can be consolidated. In a television program last night, Dr Treurnicht outlined lay claim to about 600,000 of the nearly 700,000 no votes in the referendum. On cooperation between right-wing groups, Dr Treurnicht said that now was not the time for petty conservative infighting, and he called for a combined action against the new dispensation. Dr Truernicht said the CP would take its place in the white chamber under the new dispensation, with the thought, however, that the principle on which the constitution was based was power sharing, and thus unacceptable to the party.

Ciskei Leader Terms U.S. Warning 'Slanderous'

MB180756 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 83

[Text] President Sebe of Ciskei has accused the United States of inaccurate and slanderous talk and of browbeating a well meaning and stable independent state. He was reacting to an American warning to its citizens to stay clear of Ciskei because of the security situation in that country. The American State Department also said that it held South Africa responsible for developments in Ciskei. In his reaction President Sebe accused the United States of unwittingly making itself an accessory to a communist ploy to discredit the Ciskei Government. President Sebe rejected the allegation that his government had engaged in any acts of repression against anyone and said that a responsible government had to maintain law and order. He said governments and countries throughout the world experienced boycotts, riots, and disorderly behavior, especially when orchestrated by agitators and terrorists.

Pik Botha Reaction

MB171646 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] Foreign Affairs and Information Minister Pik Botha says that if circumstances in Ciskei have caused the U.S. Government to go to the extreme of warning its citizens about how unsafe conditions are there, then there are indeed few places on earth where Americans can go. Mr Botha was reacting in Pretoria to

a statement by the United States that it is concerned about events in Ciskei and that it holds South Africa responsible for developments there. Mr Botha said as long ago as 24 October he had pointed out to the American ambassador to South Africa, Mr Herman Nichol, that Ciskei is an independent state and is recognized as such by the South African Government, even though America may not recognize Ciskei's independent status. He had also informed the ambassador that in his view the situation in Ciskei was not such that the United States should feel it necessary to warn American tourists against visiting that country. Mr Botha said that in his opinion the internal situation in Ciskei was hardly dangerous as in numerous other countries elsewhere. He also pointed out that there have been fewer shooting incidents in Ciskei than in a number of European countries. Mr Botha has also informed President Sebe about his communication with Mr Nichol.

Government Not Approached Over Border Incident

MB180625 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information has said in Pretoria that South Africa has not yet been approached officially by Botswana over the incident in which a Botswana Defense Force border patrol was allegedly fired on in the northeast of the country. Earlier the administrative secretary in the office of President Masire of Botswana in Gaborone told our Africa desk that a border patrol had been involved in a clash near the village of (Botale) on Monday with a group of six men traveling in two cars and armed with Soviet-made rifles and hand grenades. The border patrol had found two AK-47 rifles, a pistol, two walkie-talkies, and a number of hand grenades in the two vehicles, which the men had abandoned after their fire had been returned. The men had fled into the bush. A police spokesman told our Pretoria news staff that the two vehicles involved had not been reported stolen. Reports from Botswana have indicated that the two cars may have been registered in the Transvaal. The police spokesman said that as the incident had allegedly taken place within the borders of Botswana, it was not being investigated by the South African police.

SWAZILAND

Queen Names 10 MP's; Parliament To Open 18 Nov

MB171925 Mbabane Television Service in siSwati 1817 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Announcement by Electoral Commissioner Mndeni Shabalala on 17 November at Lobamba Parliament Building — recorded]

[Excerpts] You are the people of Ngwane [traditional name for Swaziland], this is Mndeni Shabalala, the electoral commissioner, addressing you. As you all know, we have just completed general elections — which we just finished recently — based on the tinkhundla [constituencies]. After this there is an electoral college which elects the members of Parliament. The electoral college has finished its task, my countrymen. After the electoral college has chosen the 40 members of parliament, the monarch then nominates 10 people in addition to the 40. After the addition of these 10 the group then totals 50, comprising the House of Assembly. At that stage, this group of 50 then performs certain tasks, which I will mention too. Before I go further — let me say I have come to announce the 10 nominees of the monarch today. Here are the names of the members of Parliament nominated by the monarch:

1. Prince Phiwokwakhe
2. Prince Khuzulwandle
3. Mhambi Mnisi
4. David J. Matse
5. Chief Sipho Shongwe
6. James Ziboni Dvuba
7. King Mtetwa
8. Colonel Gideon Fonono Dvuba
9. R. V. Dlamini
10. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini

These are the names, my fellow countrymen, the monarch has added to the House of Assembly. You, the people of Ngwane, I am now summoning all these members. The monarch says I should summon these people: that is, the members of the House of Assembly, with a total of 50 members of Parliament. They are required to assemble in Parliament by 1000 tomorrow morning. I have called the names of the new members of Parliament. I will call the names of the first 40. All these people are needed here in Parliament tomorrow. Let there be no mistake, there is a job for them to perform. When they meet, they will then be sworn in according to the law. After being sworn in , there is a job for them to do, the 50 members of the House of Assembly then constitute an electoral college to elect 10 members of the House of Senate. After the election of the 10 members of the Senate by this college, the monarch then appoints an additional 10 senators, for a total of 20 members of the House of Senate. The total number of the members of Parliament for the Kingdom of Swaziland is 70. Therefore, my fellow countrymen, I hope you have all clearly heard what has been said. Let there be no hesitation — all of you whose name was on the list I have just read are respectfully summoned to meet at 1000 tomorrow morning, no matter where you are [words indistinct] shall honor this announcement fully.

Thank you Zwide's daughter's people.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Denounces Turkish Cypriot Declaration

MB180631 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 17 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has issued independence by Turkish Cypriots. The statement says the Republic of Zimbabwe will continue to work in the Commonwealth, United Nations, and other forums for a peaceful reversal of this act of rebellion and calls for negotiations to bring about a just and lasting solution.